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# 30P

# THE TIMES

No. 64,890

MONDAY FEBRUARY 28 1994

## Cut-price drink may be only a cross-Channel phone call away

By Stewart Tendler and James Landale

BRITISH shoppers have no need to cross the Channel to buy cut-price drink and tobacco, according to a controversial interpretation of tax regulations by European Commission officials in Brussels. A telephone call and a credit card are all that are required.

The goods do not have to be transported by the buyer in person. So an order could be placed from Britain by telephone, fax or post and then a commercial courier employed to transport the goods.

The implications for the drinks trade in Britain and the ferry operators are enormous. But the interpretation is already being disputed by Britain, France, Italy and Germany. Customs investigators fear that controls on smuggling would become unworkable and the tobacco and drinks industries say domestic business could be devastated.

say the issue may have to be resolved by a test case before the European Court of Justice. The dispute is over the precise meaning of directive 92/12 which came into force in January 1 last year. Article 8 of the directive says that "as regards products acquired by private individuals for their own use and transported by them, the principle governing the internal market lays down that excise duty shall be charged in the member state in which they are acquired."

ported by them" means that shoppers must physically transport the wine themselves to avoid UK excise duty. The Commission argues that anyone can transport it on behalf of the shopper. Under that interpretation shoppers can buy the wine or beer from a French hypermarket over the phone with a credit card or by post with a cheque. They are then free to get either a friend or a commercial courier to bring the wine back to Britain.

on the shopper's behalf and that the drink is not to be sold on. British diplomatic sources in Brussels said the Government opposed the Commission because of the potential loss of excise revenue. "We believe the wording of the directive is clear," one British official said. "The purpose was not to create a loophole."

duty by British Customs officials. However, the official said the carrier would then have the right to take the Government to the European Court of Justice. Yesterday the Customs in London said tax changes needed agreement by all 12 EU countries, adding: "We are content our interpretation is right and we are continuing to apply the law as we see it." There is no limit on what is brought in provided it is for personal use and there are guidelines on an individual's imports.

## Ten die in Lebanon church bombing

# Israel orders clampdown on extremists

By Richard Beeston in Jerusalem, Ali Jaber in Beirut, Christopher Walker in Cairo and Our Foreign Staff

ISRAEL is to crack down on Jewish extremists and free up to a thousand Palestinian prisoners in an effort to curb the backlash from the Muslim massacre at Hebron last Friday, which threatens further to destabilise the whole of the Middle East.

The murder of ten people in a Christian Maronite church in Lebanon yesterday was linked to the mosque massacre, while four Palestinians were killed in the occupied territories as Arab demonstrators and Israeli security forces clashed for a third day.

The tension was further increased at the funeral of Baruch Goldstein, the Hebron killer, when the rabbi taking the service praised his actions and declared: "One million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail."

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, had earlier attempted to placate the Palestinians with a pledge to detain extremist leaders, limit the movements of their supporters and confiscate their guns. The government was also exploring ways of banning the racist Kach movement, to which Goldstein belonged.

But the moves were scorned by the Palestine Liberation Organisation as cosmetic measures that fell far short of what was required. Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, said: "The Israeli government decisions were empty, hollow and lack the basis to deal with such a grave incident that took place two days ago."

The Palestinians want all settlers to be dismantled, but the Israeli media speculated yesterday that only five people would have to surrender their



Arafat: Israeli move 'empty and hollow'

guns as a result of the cabinet decision. Only one Kach activist was detained yesterday, while two others went into hiding. The PLO is also seeking the release of about nine thousand prisoners, and had expected a thousand to be freed to coincide with the end of Ramadan next month anyway.

The Palestinian disappointment was compounded by

One million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail

— Rabbi Yaakov Perrin at killer's funeral yesterday

anger at the UN's failure to agree a swift resolution condemning the Hebron bloodshed, and Mr Arafat was under increasing pressure yesterday to abandon the peace process.

At least two of the remaining 12 members of the PLO's executive refused to attend an emergency meeting called by Mr Arafat in Tunis yesterday, hoping to prevent a quorum that would agree to amend the talks that resume in Washington this week. Six have already left the committee in protest at the deal signed by Mr Rabin and Mr Arafat in September. But although Mr Arafat has only conditionally agreed to President Clinton's call for an urgent resumption of talks, he

is seen as having little alternative but to press ahead.

Israel's President Weizman meanwhile sought to heal relations with the Palestinians by travelling to Hebron, where he offered condolences for what he described as the worst crime in Jewish history. But in spite of his gesture as well as appeals for calm and a massive influx of troops to impose curfews, demonstrations continued throughout the occupied territories and in Israel proper yesterday.

Israeli security forces killed four Palestinian and injured dozens in clashes that spread from the shanty refugee camps of the Gaza Strip to the site of Friday's massacre at the Ibrahim mosque, where soldiers barred entry to 2,000 Palestinians. Nineteen Palestinians have been killed by Israelis since last Friday, while two Israelis, including Goldstein, have died at the hands of Palestinians.

In Lebanon, ten people were killed and more than fifty wounded when a mortar bomb exploded during Mass at the Sayyid al-Najaf church 15 miles east of Beirut. It was the deadliest bomb attack December 1991 and victims included a girl aged four and several women. A second bomb, also planned near the altar, was set to go off minutes after the first but it was made safe.

Rafik Hariri, the Lebanese Prime Minister, linked the attack to the massacre at Hebron and said it aimed to give the world the impression that "in the Middle East, the Jews kill the Muslims and the Muslims kill the Christians". The attack immediately prompted speculation that Islamic hardliners were exacting revenge for the Hebron murders, although security experts had expected them to target a synagogue in Europe. A young Egyptian in close contact with armed Islamic militants predicted on Saturday: "There will be big, big trouble as a result of Hebron and it will start tomorrow in the churches."

Islamic targets, page 12



President Clinton, warming up for this week's talks with John Major, during a weekend round of golf in sub-zero temperatures at the Andrews air force base

## Arson murder hunt after sex cinema fire kills eight

By Andrew Pierce

A MURDER enquiry was launched yesterday after a fire at an illegal private cinema in central London in which eight people were killed.

A man aged about 20 was seen running from the scene at a four-storey building in Farringdon, carrying a red petrol can. Forensic experts say the fire, which engulfed the building within seconds at 5.45pm on Saturday, was started deliberately by spraying a flammable liquid in the entrance. Six people were in a critical condition last night.

One theory being investigated by the police was that the arsonist set fire to the building because he thought the customers were homosexuals. While gay men were regulars, gay films were shown only on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Detective Superintendent John Chaplin, who is leading the investigation, said: "After

initial enquiries we have launched a murder investigation. The premises appear to have been used as a private cinema club which we understand from the local authority was not licensed for such use."

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, faced demands from MPs last night for a review of fire precaution laws to ensure that even "the smallest and seediest clubs" were not allowed to slip through the safety regulations net.

One man was rescued by jumping 30 ft on to the roof of a removal lorry which had reversed into the street when the driver heard screams. At least 16 people, all middle-aged men, were badly injured. Three were "critical but stable" at the University College Hospital.

Three other critically ill victims, one still unidentified, were on life support machines

at St Bartholomew's Hospital. Nine people, with less serious injuries, were in the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel. A man taken to the special burns unit at St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, Essex, was serious.

Post-mortem examinations were being held at St Pancras mortuary. Relatives of the deceased and injured have demanded that their names are withheld. Some of the injured would not identify themselves.

The 50 fire officers who fought the flames for four hours were taken back by how swiftly they had spread through the building. "It was clearly not a simple Molotov cocktail thrown through a window or a letter box," one officer said.

Flourishing trade, page 3

## Rose renews plea for extra Bosnia troops

By Eve-Anne Prentice and Peter Riddell

THE British commander of United Nations troops in Bosnia, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, said yesterday that he urgently needed more forces to rescue the tattered peace process in the republic, as John Major flew to the United States to discuss Washington's role in the conflict.

"We are living on borrowed time," General Rose said. Britain accepts that President Clinton will not commit ground troops yet, but the Prime Minister will seek public reaffirmation of his promise to provide troops once any comprehensive peace agreement is achieved.

General Rose's appeal for 3,000 to 5,000 extra troops was issued as the Muslim-Croat truce appeared extremely shaky. In the divided city of Mostar both sides reported mortar shells and sporadic sniper fire. General Rose said the ceasefire and efforts to negotiate a peace settlement could fail unless the West committed more forces as quickly as possible to operate between Muslim and Croat forces on a front line extending 220 miles.

"I am a realist and all I can do is the best I can with what I have got, but we are living on borrowed time," he said. UN officers reported low-level but persistent ceasefire violations

in a string of other Muslim-Croat flashpoints.

In Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, the UN accused Serb and Muslim forces of ceasefire violations and issued a warning that further breaches could be punished by air strikes. A UN spokesman said, however, that a question mark hung over the reliability of British-made Cymbeline radars deployed around the city to monitor violations. Mortar fire was reported yesterday, but Major Rob Annink said last night that UN military observers had "found no guns or reports of detonations". He added that there had been no complaints about mortar fire from Serbs or Muslims.

"We have to see if the radar is functioning well, there is a question mark. We want to know in future if we can rely on it," he said.

Mr Major and Mr Clinton will begin their talks this evening in Pittsburgh — where Mr Major's grandfather worked — and British officials hope the two leaders will announce a common position for the next steps in Bosnia-Herzegovina tomorrow morning. The trip is being Continued on page 2, col 6

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## Harold Acton, scourge of Philistines, dies at 89

From John Phillips in Rome

SIR Harold Acton, aesthete, poet, patron and critic of the arts, historian, novelist and Florentine prince, died yesterday at La Pietra, the Tuscan villa where he was born 89 years ago. Sir Harold had been in frail health for some time.

The son of an English father and American mother, Sir Harold studied at Eton and Oxford before moving to Paris, where he knew Picasso, and then to China for seven years in the 1930s, teaching English at the National University of Peking. During the Second World War he was a liaison officer.

After the war he returned to La Pietra, where he died of a heart attack on the Via Bolognese, the road to Florence.

during the German occupation. Sir Harold, a bachelor who lived "hunting the Philistines" among his hobbies in *Who's Who*, played host there to Sir Winston Churchill, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, and in 1985, the Prince and Princess of Wales. Artists, poets and writers who enjoyed his hospitality included D.H. Lawrence, Aldous Huxley, Graham Greene, Henry Moore, Gabriele d'Annunzio and Brigitte Bardot. Diaghilev and his Russian troupe performed ballet in an arbour of the surrounding park. His lifestyle made him the model for Evelyn Waugh's quintessential aesthete in *Brideshead Revisited*.

Giorgio Moravia, the mayor of Florence issued a statement expressing his "pain for the death of the Anglo-Florentine Acton". Anthony Powell, the author who

was a contemporary of Sir Harold at Eton and Oxford, said: "He was the last of the old crowd and was very much a figurehead. He had no great individual talent save that of representing his generation — and that was wonderful. "At Eton he was extraordinarily grown up and sophisticated. One was enormously impressed by someone who was just a shade older than oneself who knew so much. When I arrived at Oxford a year after him he was already a great figure, but afterwards he devoted himself very much to a social life. He was enormously good natured and hospitable at his villa in Florence. I was first there when I was still at school. He was always such a grand figure."



Acton: "was always such a grand figure"

Obituary, page 19

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Clark defends arms deal with Malaysia

Alan Clark, the former trade minister, put up a robust defence for linking arms contracts to aid yesterday, calling on the Government to take a tougher line over what he described as a "fantastic deal" with the Malaysians. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, he said: "I'm not ashamed of the word linked. Why on earth shouldn't an enormous contract for British Aerospace, generating jobs over a decade, be linked to a totally separate contract for a civil engineering project from which some payment came out of the aid budget?"

Mr Clark, who was trade minister at the time the deal was struck in 1988, added: "No law was broken. No secondary legislation was breached and nobody in public service in this country took a bribe. So what's all the fuss about?"

Letters, page 17

## U-turn on Welsh roads

John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, will unveil plans this week to divert heavy traffic away from the national parks of Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons. He has decided to scrap or postpone schemes to make "strategic highways" of the A5 and A40, which would have affected the parks. Instead, funding will go to other routes near areas needing economic regeneration. The A55 coastal road in North Wales and the A465 Heads of the Valley road from Aberystwyth to Neath are to be improved. Together with the M4, they will form the three strategic highways in Wales. Merthyr Tydfil will get a bypass and the A5 across Anglesey from Menai Bridge to Holyhead is to be upgraded.

## Hospital calls in police

A nurse has been suspended after suspected interference of ventilators in a hospital's intensive care unit in the same Trent health region as the Beverly Allitt case. Police will today begin investigating a series of incidents involving equipment at the Basildon and District General Hospital in Workson, which is within the Trent Regional Health Authority. Dick Hopkinson, the hospital's medical director, said there had been some unexplained signs among patients failing to recover as expected. "But no deaths have been attributed to this and no patient has been harmed," he added.

## Guitarist offers reward

Brian May, right, the guitarist with the rock group Queen, offered a reward for information leading to the return of music tapes and family photographs stolen from his home in Notting Hill, west London. Burglars forced the front door and grabbed a Samsonite hold-all containing a camera, wallet, US dollars, two passports and cassette tapes bearing "work in progress" stickers.



## Boy canoeist drowns

A 13-year-old canoeist died after being swept down the swollen river Wye at Wilton Bridge near Ross-on-Wye. Stephen Seteram, 13, was pulled from the river by Michael Stawrowski, a fisherman, who tried repeatedly to rescue him. Attempts to revive Stephen failed and he was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.



Martin McGuinness, flanked by party members, presents the respectable face of Sinn Fein at the organisation's annual conference in Dublin at the weekend

## Sinn Fein encouraged by Major's 'new' Ulster tone

By NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

■ Martin McGuinness softened his party's criticism of the Government yesterday, but the road to peace still has many obstacles

SINN Fein yesterday softened its criticisms of John Major's Ulster peace initiative and said that the Government had adopted a new and helpful tone on Northern Ireland.

Martin McGuinness, the party's leading strategist, said he was encouraged that the Government had begun to address Sinn Fein's reservations about the Downing Street declaration.

"The British Government are tentatively grappling with new realities," he told Sinn Fein's conference in Dublin. "On the one hand they show a stern face and on the other there are clear signs that many of them are troubled by Britain's role in Ireland."

Mr McGuinness, who led his party's secret dialogue with the Government last

year, said he believed Mr Major was prepared to contemplate a significant shift in policy after an article last week in the *Irish News*, Northern Ireland's leading nationalist newspaper. In the article Mr Major seemed to clarify the declaration by spelling out how Sinn Fein could enter political talks after renouncing violence.

Mr McGuinness said he was not enough for the Government to engage in "megaphone diplomacy" and he demanded a resumption of the dialogue. "The refusal of the British Government to talk to us is a major hurdle," he said after his speech. "I am

flabbergasted that the British Government think they have won this argument."

Mr McGuinness's more optimistic outlook was shared by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader. He admitted yesterday that he had toned down his speech to the conference on Saturday after reading Mr Major's article. He deleted a paragraph which accused the Government of adopting a "belligerent, arrogant and provocative attitude".

In spite of Sinn Fein's new tone there are still formidable obstacles facing the peace process. Mr McGuinness insisted yesterday that the Government should abandon what he called the Unionist veto over political progress — something the Government refuses to countenance.

He said of warnings about a security crackdown should Sinn Fein reject the declaration: "Are they going to murder us, intern us and use supergrasses? More security measures will not solve this problem."

## Republicans put best face forward

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

EVEN the slickest political spin doctors would have been impressed by the orchestrated ovations, the triumphal pop songs and the fluttering doves at the Sinn Fein annual party conference in Dublin at the weekend.

In spite of the grimness of the community hall on Dublin's outskirts, the mood was a far cry from former years. No

one repeated Danny Morrison's infamous phrase from the 1981 conference about the joint strategy of the "ballot box and Armalite".

The talk was of peace and of "reconciling Ireland's two traditions". Slogans about the glory of battle were discarded in favour of emblems of doves flying the Irish tricolor.

Leading party figures, dressed in double-breasted suits and designer ties, wandered round chatting and joking with the hundreds of journalists from around the world. Mario McGuinness, one of the party's key strategists, talked to journalists about his passion for fishing. Gerry Adams's progress was shadowed by scores of cameramen and photographers.

Mr Adams milked the chance of delivering his speech to television stations from Japan, Australia and America. His appearance was timed to ensure a standing ovation after Tom Hartley, the party chairman, had whipped up the party faithful. Taking a leaf out of the new-model Labour Party's book, Mr Adams's 90-minute speech ended in the strains of the hit song "Something So Strong" by Labi Siffre.



An Adams caricature waved by protesters

## Stuarts fail test of time in history lessons

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

STATE schools will no longer be required to cover some of the most famous events in English history under the latest proposals to slim down the national curriculum.

The Gunpowder Plot, the Great Fire of London will become optional items in the curriculum to be introduced next year if an advisory group's plans are left unchanged. All would be casualties of less time devoted to the Stuart period.

The final shape of the curriculum, which is being reduced by 20 per cent overall, will not be determined until the end of the year.

The advisory group of teachers and officials has one more meeting in which to frame its recommendations. They have to be approved by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and by John Patten, the Education Secretary, before going out for consultation in May.

The Roman empire and explorers of the 15th and 16th centuries would also become optional subjects. Opponents of the plans are especially critical that pupils would have to study at least one ancient civilisation outside Europe.

History is having to be cut by more than 20 per cent to preserve the time available for the core subjects of English, mathematics and science. Tony Milns, the spokesman for the curriculum authority, said: "Teachers are not being told they must ignore these events. But we have to decide what is so historically significant that it should be a legal requirement."

William Rees-Mogg, page 16

## GPs 'profiteering' from NHS

By NIGEL HAWKES

FAMILY doctors who control their own funds have been accused by a Labour MP of profiteering from the Government's NHS reforms. Alan Milburn, Labour MP for Darlington, is calling for an investigation by the National Audit Office after receiving official figures which show that fundholding GPs enjoy an annual surplus profit of almost £50,000 per practice.

In one region, West Midlands, the average surplus per fundholding practice amounted to £96,153, or 16 per cent of turnover. Similar margins were achieved by fundholding GPs in North East

and South West Thames regions.

Doctors can use these surpluses for their own benefit by improving their surgeries and adding to the value of the practice.

However, critics are angry that many hospitals have been forced to halt the treatment of patients to save money, while GP fundholders have been operating at a profit.

The Health Department figures refer to the financial year 1991-92 and show that fundholding GPs made "profits" of £17 million. Of this, only £2.5 million was re-

turned to health authorities, with the fundholders keeping the rest. In 1992-93, profits leapt to £31.9 million.

Mr Milburn said yesterday: "A large amount of money is being doled out to a few GP fundholders and excess profits are being made. Hospitals are scrimping and saving while the fundholders make a profit out of the public purse."

The Health Department yesterday said any surpluses were "required by law to be ploughed back into services for patients. There is absolutely no question of fundholders profiting personally from these savings."

## Rose renews troops plea

Continued from page 1

portrayed, especially on the American side, as an opportunity to underline the close links between the two leaders after their recent differences over the granting of a visa to Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, and the more lasting dispute over Bosnia. Mr Major and Mr Clinton will also review the next stages of Western policy towards Russia, which Mr Major visited two weeks ago.

Britain has welcomed America's more active involvement over Bosnia, not just with regard to the Nato ultimatum on Sarajevo, but also Washington's attempts to persuade the Bosnian Muslims to reach agreement with, for instance, the Bosnian Croats over some form of federation. Mr Major wants to ensure a continuing American commitment to such diplomacy.

He will also hold separate talks with most other senior members of the Administration as well as several Congressional leaders. He will raise the serious dispute between London and Wash-

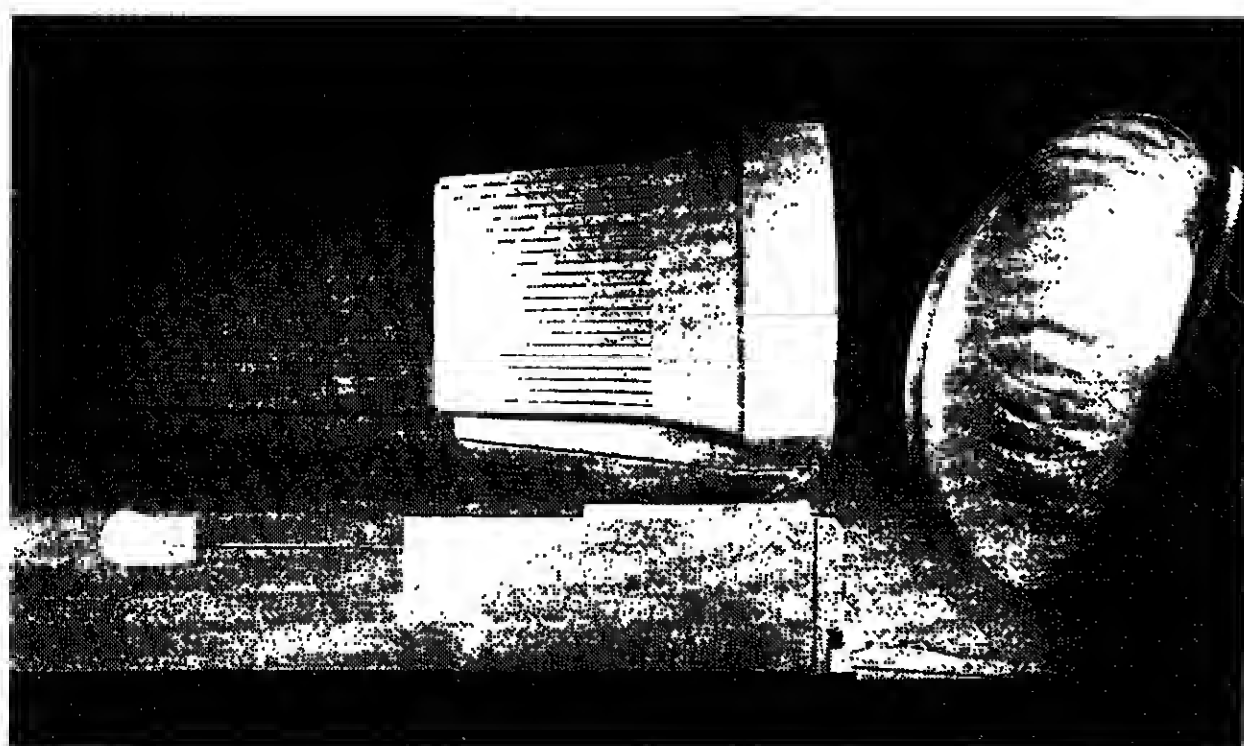
ington over air landing rights of British and American airlines in each country. This dispute has reached a difficult stage and the British believe a breakthrough may require Mr Major's intervention.

Northern Ireland will also feature in the discussions. While both sides will try to put the differences over the Adams visit to New York behind them, British officials want Mr Clinton to reaffirm his

support for last December's Anglo-Irish declaration.

In a speech tomorrow to the British-American Chamber of Commerce, Mr Major will emphasise the importance of shared trade interests: particularly the benefits each country derives from direct investment in the other.

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## Cinema murders expose flourishing illegal sex trade

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE arson attack on the Dream City cinema club in London has exposed a secret trade in illegal pornography that can thrive unnoticed even in the heart of respectable business communities.

Behind the walls of the unprepossessing four-storey building in Farringdon, up to 120 men a day paid to see hard core pornography on two separate cinema screens. There were two performances seven days a week with an entrance fee of £10, and a reported annual membership fee of £5.

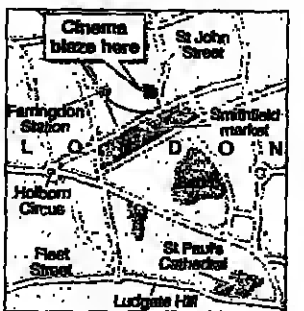
Some neighbours insisted they did not know what was going on. Most did, but say the police and Islington council, the local authority, ignored it. As a private club, it did not need an entertainment licence. Detectives admit they do not know how many illegal sex establishments are operating in London. In October last year, the police had identified 37 properties in Soho alone which were being used as unlicensed establishments.

The Dream Club was a typical private cinema operation. It blended so well into the neighbourhood, Islington Council claimed it had no knowledge of its existence. Rob Storey, a council spokesman, said: "I am 98 per cent certain the sex club had no entertainment licence or fire certificate. We'd have taken action if we had known of it."

The club, staffed by men, had been trading for about two years in St John's Street. Female strippers performed there once a week and homosexual films were shown on Sundays and Wednesdays. The clientele of such clubs are, according to the police, "the pinstripe suit brigade, the dirty raincoat brigade" and homosexuals.

One former customer of the club, who said his name was John, said the risks were part of the thrill. "It was a dangerous place to go in case it was raided. You go and watch a couple of pornographic films and then go afterwards for a few beers. It was a way of passing the time. The atmosphere was friendly. It was a good day out."

Rocco Aversa, 27, who works in the City Coffee House on the ground floor of the building, said: "There's always been a club there. Originally it used to be a massage parlour."



There's never been a name above the front door."

In the early 1980s, dozens of private cinemas in Soho were closed down during a purge by Westminster Council. But it seems the owners merely moved their operations into alternative parts of the city.

Most operate as overseas companies with frontmen installed as managers. Magistrates can grant only closure orders, giving the police and council officers the power to seize fixtures and fittings from unlicensed sex premises. But many cinemas reopen the next day.

Westminster is piloting a private bill through the House of Lords that will give the police and council officers the powers to shut down the peep shows and secure the buildings with locks and bolts.

Simon Milton, deputy leader of the council, said: "Fines alone are not a deterrent. We desperately need powers which will enable us to physically secure the premises and stop the income at source."

While they had closed down most of the cinemas in Westminster, Mr Milton said that the trade continued elsewhere. "They succeed because of their anonymity. If you identify the culprits — those who receive the profits — you can close them for good."

Murder hunt, page 1



The Dream City cinema club in Farringdon had been operating for ten years

## Father of missing girl on murder charge

BY JENNY KNIGHT

THE FATHER of a missing girl was charged with her murder last night after remains were discovered in the garden of his home.

Frederick West, 52, will appear in court today. Heather West was last seen alive at the age of 16 more than six years ago.

A woman aged 40, who was arrested on Friday at the same time as Mr West, was still being questioned by police last night.

Detectives confirmed that late on Saturday they unearthed remains in the back garden of the girl's former home in Gloucester. The scene was visited yesterday by Professor Bernard Knight, a Home Office pathologist, who examined the remains.

Det Supt John Bennett said: "The remains are now being examined at Gloucester police station and will later be taken to Cardiff University for further examination. Positive identification has not yet been made."

Mr West was charged with killing Heather between May 28, 1987, and yesterday. The charge follows almost three days of excavation using bulldozers and shovels in the small garden of the Victorian terrace home.

Heather was never reported missing. Her disappearance came to light recently when police were investigating other matters. They declined to comment on the nature of the enquiry.

## The quality of The Times



'One of the three men cried 'Don't shoot, don't shoot: we are Muslim soldiers' as he stumbled unnaturally up the slope in no man's land towards the Bosnian army trenches... The cause of the terror in his voice soon became apparent to the troops ahead of him... Anti-tank mines had been strapped to his chest and back. Ropes bound his hands to his sides and wire ran from his torso back towards the Croat positions. It unravelled slowly as he advanced...'

Anthony Loyd was named Foreign Stringer of the Year in the British Press Awards last week for his telling and evocative reports for The Times from Bosnia.

Order The Times and freeze the price for 12 months. See coupon, page 15

## Police find 36 falcons in raids

BY JENNY KNIGHT

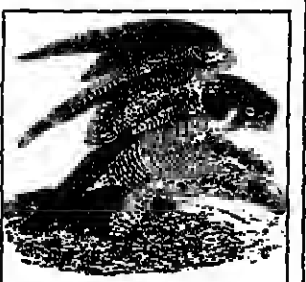
THIRTY-SIX peregrine falcons discovered in police raids across the country yesterday are to undergo DNA tests to determine whether they were taken from the wild.

Two men were arrested in the operation, aimed at halting the lucrative trade in wild birds of prey.

One of the birds was seized by police and will be returned to the wild by the RSPB. The others will remain with their owners until the test results are known. Many owners said they had bought the birds in the belief that they had been bred legally in captivity.

The police raided addresses in London, Wales, Essex, the Thames Valley, Wiltshire, Derbyshire, Northumbria, Bedfordshire, and Yorkshire.

The RSPB said: "If a bird is captive bred it will have a similar DNA profile to the birds said to be its parents. Falcon owners have to be able to satisfy Environment Department officials that they are legitimate offspring of captive birds."



## Classics bolster BBC sales drive

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC's critically acclaimed classic drama serial *Middlemarch* will this week form the centrepiece of the biggest independent international sales drive the corporation has ever mounted.

The six-part adaptation of George Eliot's novel, which attracted eight million viewers, goes on sale to foreign television stations today at BBC Showcase in Brighton, the biggest market mounted by any single broadcaster in the world. The serial is believed to have been sold already to channels in The Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Spain and all of Scandinavia.

Graham Massey, international director of BBC Enterprises, said: "More than 160 broadcasters from 40 countries are in Brighton today solely to buy BBC programmes. They come here for classic drama in particular, because nobody else in the world makes it on the scale that we do."

This year, the BBC will launch a batch of new literary adaptations, to be shown on British television from next year. These include Edith Wharton's novel *The Buccaneers*, Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, and two Dickens novels, *Hard Times* and *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

With costume drama costing between £600,000 and £800,000 per episode to pro-

duce, Mr Massey said, the BBC could no longer afford to commission such serials for domestic consumption only. Increasingly, it is seeking partners to help co-finance such productions, he said. Like *Middlemarch*, *The Buccaneers* will be a co-production with the American public service broadcaster, WGBH Boston. The corporation is in negotiations with potential co-producers for other serials.

Because it does not date, classic drama can continue to generate income years after it is screened at home. *Bleak House*, *Clarissa*, *Ashenden*, *Tender is the Night* and *Adam Bede* — all broadcast between 1965 and 1992 — have sold in up to 60 countries, generating £2.5 million for the BBC, and are still bringing in new sales.

This year's Showcase comes at a critical moment. The Government is reviewing the BBC's future beyond the expiry of its charter in 1996. While anxious to prove its need for continued public funding, the BBC needs also to show it is fully exploiting the value of its unrivalled brand name.

This year's market will also see the launch of *Watergate*, a documentary which re-examines the downfall of President Nixon, and *The Human Animal*, in which Desmond Morris looks at the theories on human evolution and behaviour he put forward 25 years ago in *The Naked Ape*.

## Iris painter blooms again

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AN ART teacher who died penniless and is now being hailed as an undiscovered genius is to have his work commemorated by the school that dismissed him 100 years ago. W J Caparne taught at Oundle School, Northamptonshire, for 14 years. He also painted scenery for drama productions and laid out the grounds of a sanatorium as a botanical plot, pursuing an interest in horticulture, and irises in particular.

Caparne began to spend too much time in the garden, rather than the classroom. He met the iris experts of the day and began developing hybrids, winning National Horticultural Society awards. He painted many watercolours of irises.

When F W Sanderson became headmaster he wanted Caparne to teach mechanical drawing. Caparne could not or would not, and in 1894 he was told he would have to make way for a more suitable teacher.

He moved to Guernsey, gave up teaching and spent the rest of his life growing and painting irises. He set up house in a remote bungalow, overgrown with flowers. His studio was a disused tramcar. As well as painting local landscapes and seascapes, he introduced 100 dwarf and intermediate bearded irises, which he also painted.

Caparne was made an honorary member of the British and American Iris societies, and had a horticultural medal named after him in the United States. His daughter Winifred, his companion until his death in 1940, moved to Devon and bequeathed his painting to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral. Some of his work was exhibited in Guernsey in the 1980s, but the rest has only now been put together by Robin



Caparne outside his tramcar studio

Fenner, a Devon fine art auctioneer, who says he was one of Britain's unknown and unheralded masters. He is mounting exhibitions of Caparne's work at Oundle, London and Newark, the artist's birthplace. Roger Eames, Oundle's communications officer, said: "Perhaps now, after 100 years, Oundle will revalue the memory of its one-time art master and even acquire a painting." There are also plans to recreate one of his gardens at the school.



## A conductor of passion and compassion.

Many musicians consider Maestro Lorin Maazel to be the finest orchestral conductor since Toscanini. The comparison is significant, both musically and historically. For it was Toscanini who, in 1941, invited the 11-year-old Lorin to conduct the legendary NBC Symphony.

Today Lorin Maazel enjoys the admiration and affection of music-lovers the world over. Blessed with absolute pitch and an awesome memory, he has mastered virtually the entire classical symphony repertoire. He was the very first American to conduct Wagner at Bayreuth and Mozart at Salzburg. Since then he has conducted some

4,000 concerts around the globe and recorded 275 titles. His dedication to broadening the appeal of classical music through television has endeared him to a vast new audience of music fans.

With it all, Maazel retains a boyish sense of humour. He has written, for example, an award-winning comedy film, *A Week in The Life of a Conductor*, a parody of popular misconceptions.

But the man who refuses to be stuffy about his profession is most serious about his music. "There is no music without Life, no Life without passion, no passion without compassion," he says. "A performance must be like Life itself."

Maazel realises his passionate beliefs in compassionate actions. Thus, most recently, his globally-televised CLASSIC-AID concert raised millions of dollars for the hungry.

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## Bishop forecasts Catholic defections

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Anglican bishop who opposes the ordination of women priests last night criticised the Roman Catholic Church as fundamentalist and predicted a steady move by Catholics to join the Church of England.

The Right Rev Michael Marshall, adviser in evangelism to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, also condemned the Catholic attitude to marriage and divorce as despicable. He said: "The Roman Catholics are the fundamentalists of today. They want straightforward black and white answers to rainbow-shaped questions."

Bishop Marshall, who converted from Catholicism in his early 20s, is co-chairman of Springboard, the archbishops' new evangelism initiative. He reports that his fellow bishops are receiving converts from Catholicism at every confirmation.

"Certainly in America, where I was for eight years until recently, it is a growing tide," he said. "And what happens in America tends to happen here a few years later."

His comments are certain to

**An opponent of women's ordination says that is no reason to quit the Church of England for 'fundamentalist' Rome**

provoke anger in the Catholic church, which is preparing to receive about 2,500 adult converts in cathedrals throughout England at Easter. About 5,000 join the Catholic church each year and the numbers will be swelled over the next few years by priests and laity defecting from the Church of England after last week's final decision to ordain women priests.

Bishop Marshall, who was brought up as a Catholic, said: "The ecclesiastical fundamentalism of the Roman Catholic Church does not fit well with the Gospel. In the New Testament, Christ reserves his strongest rebukes for the religious fundamentalists of his day, not for the sinners and those who were confused. And you could never describe the apostles as inflexible."

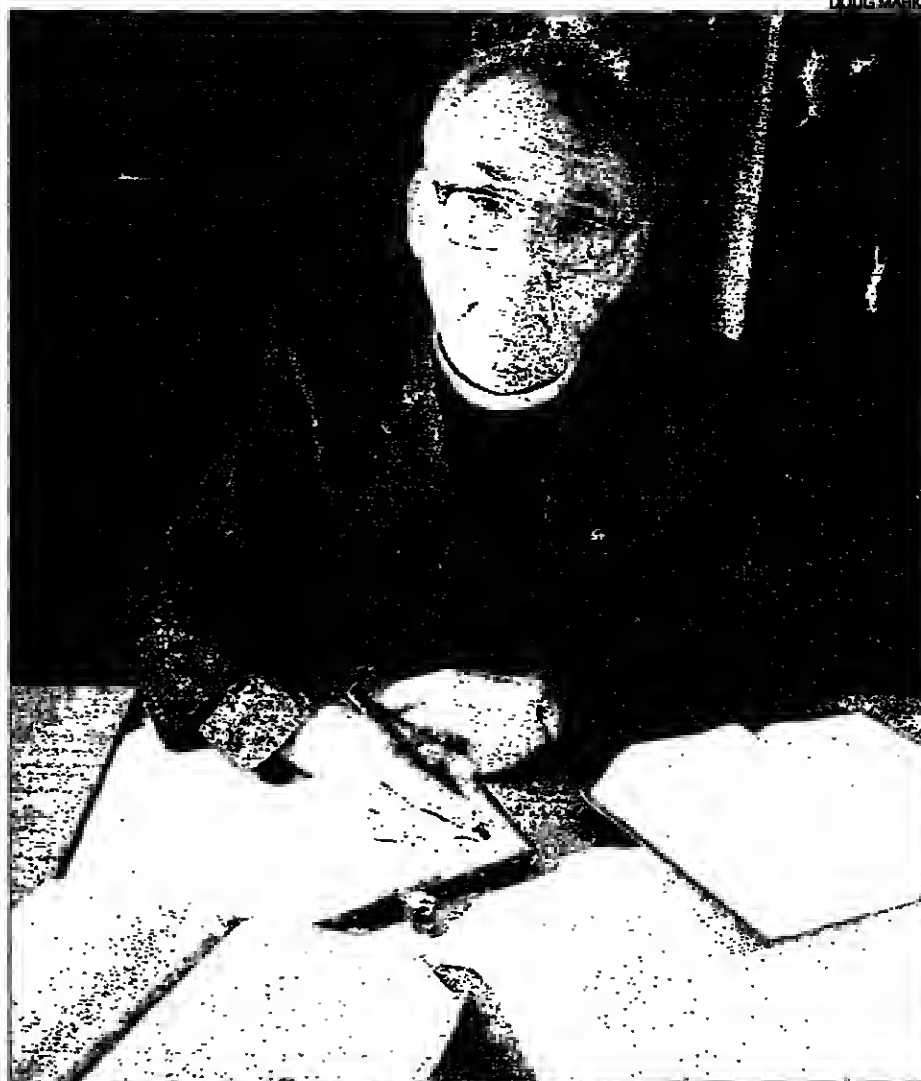
"The Roman Catholics lack tremendous integrity at the level of dogmatic and moral teaching. The way they handle and fudge with sleight of hand the question of divorce seems to me to be despicable. I am

personally opposed to the ordination of women but that is not a reason to become a Roman Catholic. My church is not without error. The fundamentalists who want the sort of certainty that Rome packages should go, they will never be happy in the Church of England."

His comments come after eight bishops and 700 clergy signed the "Rome declaration" saying they wish to seek "convergence and corporate reunion" with the Catholics.

Canon Michael Banks, chancellor of Leicester cathedral and a member of the General Synod, converted to the Church of England after being ordained to the Catholic priesthood. He said the movement of Catholics to the Church of England was more a steady trickle than a flood. The final straw for him was the 1968 Catholic encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which condemned artificial birth control.

Letters, page 17



Canon Michael Banks: opposes Roman Catholic stance on birth control

## High toll in mountains prompts enquiry

By JENNY SHIELDS

THE Scottish Office is to fund a study into the causes of accidents in the Scottish hills, which have claimed 14 lives so far this year.

The £2,500 study will be carried out by the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland. Researchers are expected to look at weather, equipment, fitness, experience and the difficulty of the terrain as factors in accidents in the hills.

The climber who fell to his death on Ben Ledi near Callander on Saturday was named as Robert Williams, 50, an insurance underwriter from Caldercruix, Strathclyde. A few hours earlier the body of George Gibson, 41, an Edinburgh University lecturer, was recovered from the foot of Five Finger Gully on Ben Nevis. He was the third climber to be killed in the gully in as many days.

A 45-year-old walker fell to his death on Snowdon at the weekend after setting off to climb the mountain alone without ice axe or crampons in treacherous conditions. The body of the man, from Maidenhead in Berkshire, was found on Saturday at the bottom of an 800ft drop.

## Parents of injured boy told to pay bill

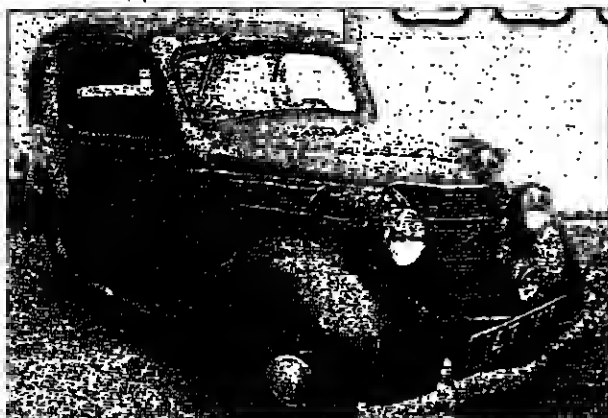
By A STAFF REPORTER

THE parents of a boy injured when his head smashed a school bus windscreen have been sent a £2,000 bill for repairs by the coach operator, Eddie Brown Tours of York, has also banned Carl Anderson, 14, from travelling on its coaches again.

The windscreen was smashed when Carl, a pupil at the Joseph Rowntree School in New Earswick, North Yorkshire, was flung forward down the aisle and knocked out as the driver braked to avoid a car.

Philip Brown, the company director, said: "He is always standing and when asked to sit down is abusive and rude." He did not expect the bill to be paid but he wanted the parents to know how much their son's behaviour had cost the company.

Carl's mother, Gillian Anderson, 35, said: "Children do move about on school buses. If they had to use seat belts there would be fewer accidents."



The Ford Eifel that carried a family to safety

## Ford that fled the Nazis to be sold

By JOHN SHAW

A 1938 Ford that carried a young family to safety as they fled from Nazi Germany at the outbreak of the Second World War is being sold with real regret at Sotheby's today.

The 10hp green Eifel convertible was a life-saver for Teddy Barrow, an engineer who worked for Ford of Germany in Cologne in the 1930s. He also worked for the British Consul and as war drew nearer diplomats advised him to leave as Mr Barrow made no secret locally of his anti-Nazi views.

But he steadfastly refused to do so until a few days before the outbreak of war in September 1939, when he and his German wife and two children set off for the Channel ports. He eluded the Gestapo by only a few hours and reportedly drove the Ford through border checkpoints under gunfire in his dash for home. The Ford was among the last cars on the final scheduled sailing across the Channel.

Mr Barrow was a Maxman and the family finally arrived home with nothing

other than their clothes, the car and two shillings (50p) in cash. He rebuilt his life and eventually opened a garage.

But the Ford remained an abiding interest. Nigel Cordwell, 33, his grandson, who is selling the vehicle, said: "It was immaculate. It was brought out in the summer and then only in fine weather."

"I think he became obsessed with it because he had to leave everything else behind, his house, furniture, the lot. It was a marvellous car and apparently really used to turn heads when he drove it on Douglas promenade. I am selling it with real regret."

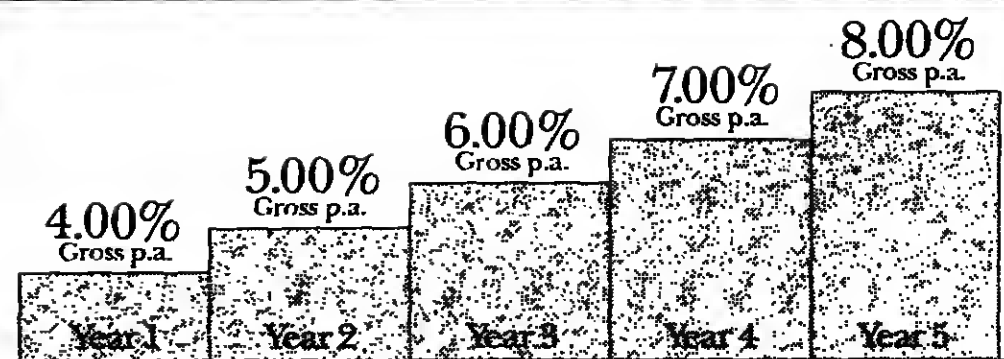
Mr Barrow died in 1960 and his wife ten years later. Mr Cordwell, a solicitor in Stockport, has kept the classic car in store since he was left it in his grandmother's will.

The vehicle's original number plate, issued by the Third Reich, is still in the boot with the pre-war German tax discs.

Sotheby's expects the Ford will make between £5,000 and £6,000. It has 53,653 miles on the clock but the auctioneers do not guarantee that figure.

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Olympic runners divided over calls to dismiss Britain's promotions officer

# Cliff Temple death tears at the soul of athletics

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE sports journalist Cliff Temple, whose apparent suicide has bitterly divided British athletics, knew that by killing himself he would turn attention towards Andy Norman, the promotions officer for the British Athletic Federation.

Thirty-six hours before he died on a railway line, Mr Temple's mother promised that if anything were to befall him, she would "use the tape". She was referring to a telephone conversation recorded last July in which Mr Norman, the most powerful man in British athletics, tried to discourage Mr Temple, 46, from pursuing a story critical of Norman's fiancée Fatima Whitbread.

Mr Norman suggested an allegation would be made that Mr Temple had sexually harassed an athlete he coached, Shireen Bailey — conduct which she has denied. Mr

Norman later repeated the allegation to journalists.

After her son's body was discovered, Joan Temple, 76, went to his house in Hythe, Kent, to retrieve the cassette tape. "I thought, if he doesn't want me to use it, it won't be where he told me it would be," she said. "It was."

She passed a copy to his employer, *The Sunday Times*, which published extracts. They were later broadcast on television and radio.

Stung by the media interest, the federation launched an enquiry into Mr Norman's behaviour. An announcement is expected this week.

But those involved in British athletics do not see the case as clear-cut. Both Mr Temple and Mr Norman have their supporters. The polarisation is best illustrated by the reactions of two great athletes who appointed Mr Temple to write their biographies: former world-record holders Brendan Foster and Dave Moorcroft.

"It's a pressed bash for Andy," said Foster. "He has ruffled all their feathers over the years."

Moorcroft said: "Andy Norman should be given the sack, not because Cliff died, but for making those comments. That level of behaviour and bullying should not be tolerated."

In recent days, some light has been shed on the origins of allegations of sexual harassment. During the 1980s, when Mr Temple coached Mrs Bailey, some athletes apparently felt his manner was excessively paternal and protective, and that he spent a great deal of time in her company.

Don Quarrie, the Jamaican former Olympic 200m champion, recalls a conversation

with Mr Norman from that period. Although Mrs Bailey had never complained, other athletes told Mr Norman that Mr Temple "was trying to control Shireen's life".

Charles Taylor, 73, a veteran athletics worker, heard about the matter from Mr Norman in 1988. Mr Norman said he had used the American term "sexual harassment" to Mr Temple to describe his behaviour. There was no suggestion of sexual impropriety.

Ewan Murray, a former chairman of the British Amateur Athletic Board, also remembers Mr Norman reporting a coaching problem involving Mr Temple and Mrs Bailey, but cannot recall the details.

Mrs Bailey told *The Times*: "Coach-athlete: it's a funny

relationship. You know they are quite protective of you, but they are doing it for a reason. It's like a parent being protective of a child. But there was never anything sexual and he never harassed me. I never complained or said that to anybody."

Mr Temple had a difficult three years before his death. In 1991, his wife of 15 years, Clare, left him. In 1992, the couple divorced and Dutchman Jeroen Ter Horst moved into her home with Mr Temple's four young children. "Although we all got on very well, I'm sure he wasn't wonderfully happy coming here and seeing us all together," Mrs Temple said.

In 1992, Mr Temple was distressed when *The Sunday Times* chose Chris Brasher,

his former rival from *The Observer*, to report athletics with him at the Barcelona Olympics.

In July 1993, Mr Norman made the telephone call recorded on the cassette tape, and in August repeated his allegations to journalists. The same month, Mr Temple lost control of himself at the world championships in Stuttgart.

Athlete Jennifer Stoute said: "He just broke down, tears and everything. He said 'Did you know I'm not with my wife and I'm alone again?' He felt everyone was looking at him as though he was some sort of misfit."

On returning to England, Mr Temple began suffering delusions, and was prescribed tranquillisers. Around December 17, he was taken off the

drugs. Dr Stanley Sherre, a consultant psychiatrist, said: "Cliff knew the aspects that had been worrying him in the first place had not been solved by the medication."

"There was still his distress over his wife, there was still his unhappiness about the children and his distress that he wasn't with them. All the time there was still his concern about financial matters. There was still his concern about his job and his future."

On New Year's Eve, Mr Temple set off for his first proper assignment since his nervous breakdown: an international cross country event in Co Durham.

That evening, he met Foster. Although they were once close friends, Mr Temple had written a critical article about the

former champion. "I was still a bit cool," recalls Foster.

Mr Temple's final week was spent apparently preparing for death. On Thursday, January 6, his mother asked whether he would fly back from an assignment in Northern Ireland the following Saturday. He told her: "I don't think I will be coming back."

His mother replied: "Cliff, if anything happens to you, I shall use the tape."

On Friday, Mr Temple went to his solicitor to sign his will. He went home and wrote five letters: two for his mother, one each for his ex-wife, sister and children. One refers to allegations being untrue.

In the early hours of Saturday January 8, Cliff Temple's body was found. An inquest has been opened.

## Volte-face spares Subbuteo's blushes

BY JOE JOSEPH

THE makers of Subbuteo have bowed to a boy's outrage that the only hint of colour in their finger-flicking England football team is in the players' strip, not on their skin.

Yesterday Waddington's, the game's makers, said that from August all Subbuteo English Premier League sides and the national team will feature three black players, ending the only selection row in recent history that wasn't blamed on Graham Taylor.

The possibility that Terry Venables might today name Paul Ince as England captain means Waddington's may have only narrowly escaped further blushes.

Subbuteo's changed game plan is a personal triumph for Ashley Williams, the nine-year-old football fan from Tamworth, Staffordshire, who pointed out the demographic shortcoming to Waddington's last autumn. A fifth of members of the Professional Footballers' Association are black. When Ashley's mother Lynne bought him the petite England team, he opened the box only to find no John Barnes or Paul Ince, Ian Wright or Carlton Palmer. Ashley squealed the school-boy equivalent of that soccer howl immortalised by Graham Taylor — *Do I not like that!* — and complained.

When Mrs Williams told the games company her son was as sick as a parrot, Waddington's said she could paint the toys' faces brown. Waddington's did make black players to represent teams from, say, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay, but making mixed race sides was too finicky.

"It takes a nine-year-old lad, but they've finally moved," Mrs Williams said yesterday.

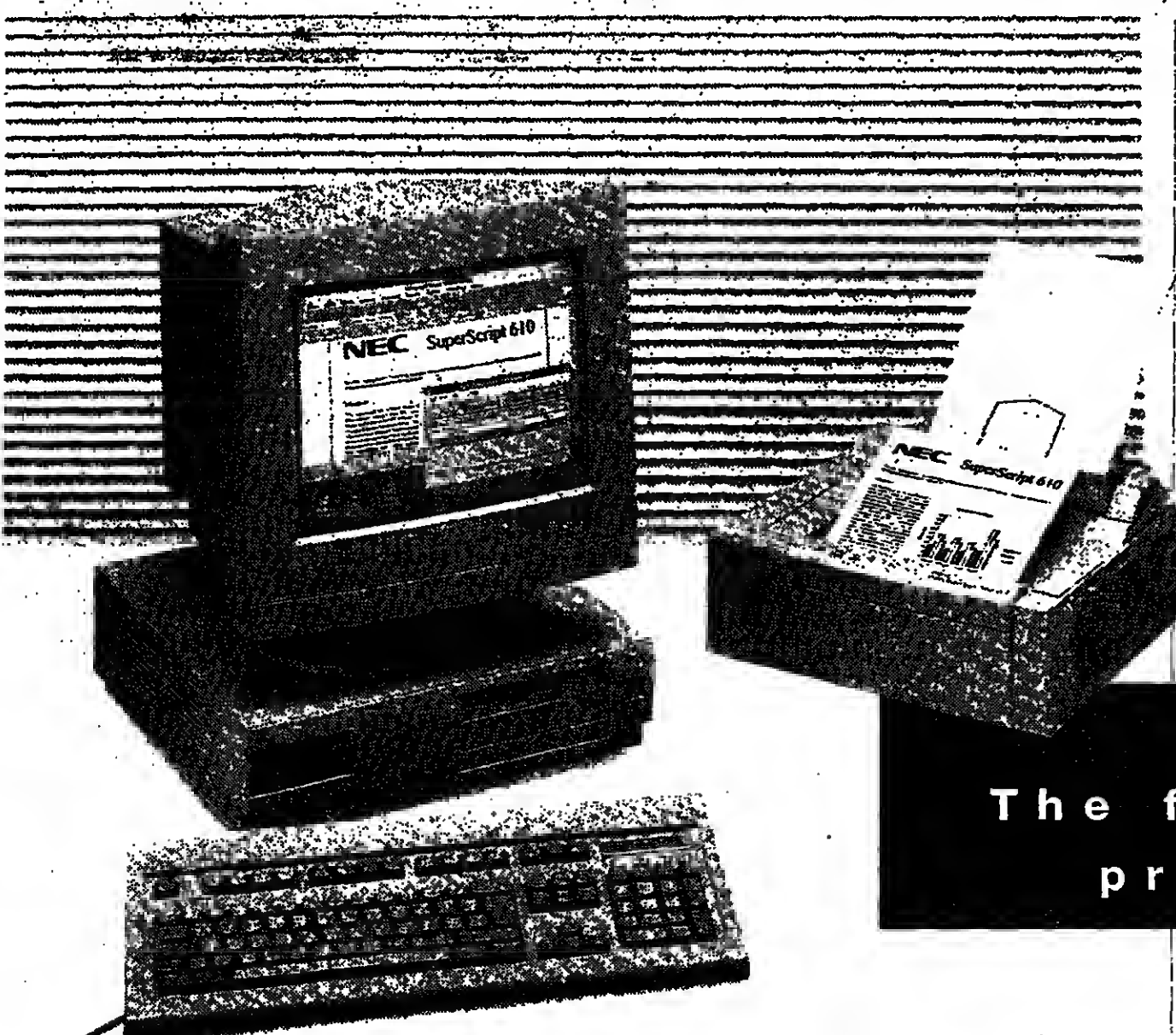
Alan Thompson, Waddington's managing director, said: "We make 700 teams which are all white or all black. It had been too impractical to make mixed teams before, but we will do it now because of pressure from our customers, which came to a head with Ashley's request."



Clare Temple: break-up left husband distressed



Joan Temple: promised her son she would circulate the tape of a conversation he recorded between himself and Andy Norman



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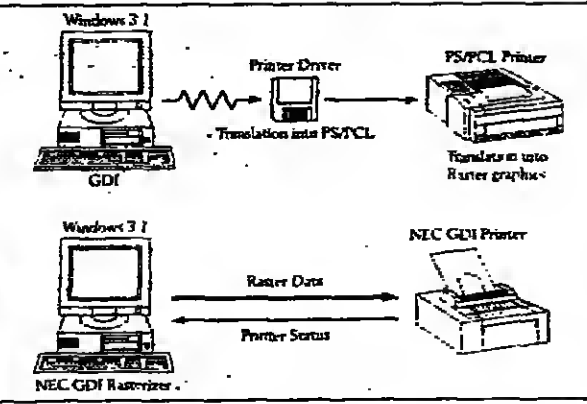
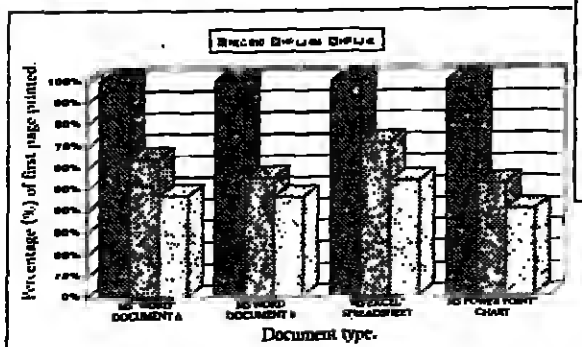
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# Champions of privatisation try to throw off welfare state straitjacket

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL proposals to privatise the welfare state are published today by an influential think-tank. The Adam Smith Institute says that, for the first time, there is a workable and coherent alternative to the £80-billion-a-year social security system.

The change could be introduced gradually, guaranteeing a safety net for the poor, boosting benefits for the middle classes and sparing the Treasury the "nightmare" of increased costs during the transition. The institute condemns the existing system for its waste, fraud

and bureaucracy, saying it saps the will to work, undermines the family and encourages the growth of an underclass of welfare dependants. Up to 75 per cent of the pension contributions made during a working life are wasted.

"There is a pathology inherent within the welfare state. It spends increasing amounts of money, diverting from economic growth and expansion the funds needed for investment and job creation. Yet it manifestly fails to achieve its primary purpose: the provision of security and the elimination of poverty," the report says.

Copies of *The End of the Welfare State* have been sent to Peter Lilley,

the Social Security Secretary, and Michael Portillo, the Treasury Chief Secretary, who are conducting a fundamental review of the welfare state. Dr Madsen Pirie, the institute president and one of the four authors, attended a confidential brainstorming session with social security ministers at Chevening in Kent last year.

Although the Government is hesitant about embracing politically hazardous ideas, some of the suggestions are likely to figure in the next Conservative manifesto.

The think-tank believes that, with the Government apparently drifting, there is scope to galvanise it in much the same way as the

Thatcher administration was re-born in the mid-80s.

The core of the proposals is an end to pay-as-you-go arrangements under which benefits such as the basic state pension and unemployment pay are funded out of the national insurance contributions (Nics) of the existing workforce. Instead, people would pay into "lifetime personal accounts" (LPAs), which would be invested on their behalf by City fund managers. The jobs would have their premiums paid by the state.

Dr Pirie said: "In place of today's instant transfers from contributors to claimants would be managed funds held by individuals or fam-

ilies. They will constitute a person's investment in their own future, but they will do much more.

"They will form a huge capital pool, which will be handled by fund managers and ultimately be available as investment capital for British industry. The present system has no such funds, no such pool, and no such contribution to the economic growth of the nation."

People opting for LPA funds would pay a reduced rate of Nics. The surplus would be used to pay the benefits of today's pensioners.

Dr Pirie says: "We envisage that the LPAs will cover the present mish-mash of assorted state benefits. People will draw upon them in

the event of unemployment, sickness, retirement and admission into care homes. The private firms would cover some of those needs by insurance, some by savings funds."

Change would be gradual, with people being offered tax breaks to insure themselves against unemployment and incapacity. Later, they would be given incentives to opt out of the basic state pension.

Professor David Marsland, another of the authors, says that the "straitjacket of state welfare" is inflicting moral and psychological harm by seducing people from their natural independence of spirit and their traditional commitment to hard work, honesty and high

standards. "It is turning estates and neighbourhoods right across Britain into factories of crime and arbitrary violence," he says.

□ Social security spending is costing the average worker £15 a day in taxes, Mr Lilley said yesterday as he reaffirmed his determination to slow the rate of increase in his department's budget. The Social Security Secretary identified invalidity benefit, housing benefit and payments to lone parents as the three main growth areas.

□ *The End of the Welfare State*, by Bell, Butler, Marsland and Pirie (Adam Smith Institute, 23 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BL; 39 pages; £25)

## Heseltine's doubts over gagging order backfire on Cabinet

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the one government minister who expressed serious reservations about signing public immunity certificates in the Matrix Churchill trial, is expected to emerge unscathed from his encounter with Lord Justice Scott today.

His evidence seems certain, however, to cast in a less favourable light the actions of several other ministers who signed the orders without question and of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who told them it was their "duty" to do so.

As President of the Board of Trade, Mr Heseltine initially refused to sign a so-called gagging order because he did not believe that the disclosure of confidential government documents would be "injurious to the public interest".

The documents, which included minutes of ministerial meetings, inter-departmental correspondence and intelligence reports, were requested by the defence counsel because they contained evidence that ministers and officials had approved exports of defence equipment to Iraq in the knowledge that it would be used to manufacture missiles and shells.

Mr Heseltine was finally compelled to sign the gagging order after Sir Nicholas told him it was his "duty" to do so. But Mr Heseltine is understood to have altered the wording of the certificate in an

attempt to "flag up" his misgivings to the judge.

Lord Justice Scott's enquiry will want to establish why Mr Heseltine exhibited such reservations about signing the gagging order in contrast to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, and Tristan Garel-Jones, the former Foreign Office minister, all of whom accepted the advice of government lawyers.

The use of public interest immunity certificates has become central in Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-for-Iraq affair, not least because the way in which they were signed appears to demolish the doctrine of ministerial responsibility, under which civil servants advise and ministers decide.

Moreover, the fact that ministers were asked to certify that government documents were entitled to a right of confidentiality simply because they were government documents seems unjustifiably excessive in a mature open democracy.

The documents could have been released to the defence before the trial with the genuinely sensitive material blacked out, thus preserving government confidentiality. When that finally happened in November 1992, the trial collapsed, and John Major set up the Scott enquiry.

Those ministers and officials

who have accused the media of misleading the public by using the phrase gagging order have failed to address themselves to the real prospect of a miscarriage of justice had the judge in the Matrix Churchill trial decided to accept the certificates.

Each minister, with the single exception of Mr Lilley, has told the enquiry that he was unaware that the Matrix Churchill defendants were going to claim "the Government knew" as their defence. Yet the enquiry has already unearthed evidence that officials in the Foreign Office, Trade and Industry Department, the Ministry of Defence, and the Cabinet Office harboured similar suspicions. But nothing was done — or could be done — to bring the prosecution to a halt.

Lord Justice Scott must also decide whether William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, Alan Clark, the trade minister, and Lord Trefgarne, the defence procurement minister, secretly agreed to relax the Government's arms export guidelines in December 1988, without telling Parliament. The guidelines, as announced in Parliament in October 1985, prohibited export of "any defence equipment which would significantly enhance the capability of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict".



Sir Robin Butler: "It was an accurate but incomplete answer. The purpose of it was to give an answer which in itself was true. It did not give the full picture. It was a half answer. Half the picture can be true."



Baroness Thatcher: "The guidelines are exactly what they say. They are guidelines. They are not strict law. I do not believe we would ignore the guidelines for exports."



John Major: "Neither at that stage nor later was I involved in the formulation of the guidelines, consideration of the guidelines, amending the guidelines or the interpretation of the guidelines."



Alan Clark: "I regarded the guidelines as being so imprecise and so obviously drafted with the objective of elasticity as to make them fair game."



Kenneth Clarke: "Once I decided that this type of information would be damaging to the intelligence service, and it was not in the public interest for this to be in the public domain, then in my opinion I have a duty to claim public interest immunity. I can't choose."



Peter Lilley: "I had come to the view from discussions with officials that the prosecution would certainly fail, and that the chance of a jury convicting in the light of the defendant's links with the security service and the meeting Mr Clark had was very small."



Tristan Garel-Jones: "The injury [to the public interest] is that I have had to explain to my constituents at some length that the actions I took were proper, and I was not seeking to pervert the course of justice by protecting the Government from [allegations] of skulduggery."



Lord Justice Scott: "If the public interest immunity certificates had been confined to claiming protection for documents, disclosure of which would have caused damage to the public interest, it is at least arguable that the public perception of Government would have been the better not the worse."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Mother faces questions on dead girl

The discovery of the body of a nine-year-old girl at a seaford guesthouse has led to a murder enquiry, police said yesterday.

Hours before Louise Murrie was found at Southend-on-Sea, Essex, police had appealed for her mother Anne to bring her back home. Mrs Murrie, 38, of Reading, Berkshire, had failed to return Louise a week ago to her estranged husband, who lives near Reading.

Police said that a woman had been arrested and was receiving psychiatric treatment in hospital. She was expected to be questioned by detectives later.

#### Triplets first

Britain's first surrogate triplets have been born at Chester. Dawn Spindler, 29, gave birth to two boys and a girl created from the sperm and eggs of her brother Eddy Riley and his wife Debbie, who had had a hysterectomy.

#### Hors d'oeuvre

Seven people on a yacht stranded off Ryde, Isle of Wight, were rescued by five lifeboatmen wearing oilskins over dinner suits. The crew afterwards attended a lifeboat annual dinner.

#### Boy charged

A boy aged 15 will appear before Kettering magistrates today charged with murdering a widow, Mary Archer, 90, found strangled in her flat after a neighbour reported unusual noises.

#### History paper

An 8ft strip of green wallpaper uncovered at Erdgig, a National Trust house near Wrexham, Clwyd, is expected to prove one of the best examples from the 18th century.

#### Driver shot

A rally car driver was slightly injured when shots were fired at his vehicle near Lampeter, Dyfed, where residents have complained of late night noise from motor club events.

#### Kitchen body

The body of a woman believed to have suffered stab wounds was found in the kitchen of a house at Cambridge. A man is in custody.

#### Rabbi attack

A petrol bomb caused minor damage to a rabbi's home in Oxford. Police are examining the possibility of a link to the unrest in Israel.

#### Fire death

A boy aged three died in a house fire at Kirby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

#### Bond winners

Weekly Premium Bond winners: £100,000 prize, no. 14AN 741094 (winner lives in West Midlands, value of holding £1,000); £50,000, 25FT 93733 (Buckinghamshire, £3,354); £25,000, 20SN 545965 (Sheffield, £974).

## Councils hold down tax to boost election chances

By IAN MURRAY

COUNCIL tax levels are being held down artificially this year as part of the local election campaign. District councils preparing for May elections are cutting services and dipping into their reserves to reduce tax bills.

County councils, which do not face elections this year, have increased their demands sharply by an average of 6.6 per cent. Despite the increase in their precept, all 39 county councils in England and Wales have managed to keep within the capping limit.

The Association of County Councils calculates that budgets generally will grow by 4.2 per cent, including transferred community care money. This is 2.4 per cent below the level counties are seeking. The difference can only be found by pushing up taxes, eating into reserves or cutting services.

All the signs are that, with elections looming, councils are opting to absorb the increase and to hold down taxes at the expense of services or reserves. Many tax demands will be below the inflation rate. Some

householders could find themselves paying less this year than last.

A survey of 67 district councils carried out for *Public Finance*, magazine of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, has found the average band D rise will be only 1.1 per cent. This would increase bills by just £6.16 to an average £561.57.

Wandsworth, the Conservative flagship borough, has once again announced the lowest council tax — £139 for band D, £7 lower than last year. The council has benefited from transitional relief paid to guard against big increases compared with the community charge, but it also claims the second lowest needs-related support of any inner-London borough. In Westminster, another Conservative area, even those in the most expensive property band will pay no more than £391.

The lowest council tax outside London seems certain to be set for the second year running by Wellesborough in Northamptonshire. Resi-

dents in band D properties there will receive a tax bill of minus £200.06. However, as Northamptonshire county has increased its charge to districts by 12.1 per cent this year, band D residents will actually have to pay £293.43, almost £50 more than last year.

The largest increase announced so far faces residents of Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. A 20.9 per cent rise will push up band D bills to £341.60. They could have done worse: Salford residents must pay £740, the highest tax in the country.

The advantage of holding down council tax levels is shown by a new study for the Economic and Social Research Council. This shows that the rich can be enticed to move out of poorer areas by wealthy boroughs charging low taxes. By increasing population, councils obtain a higher government grant, which enables them to lower taxes further. The consequence is that poorer areas are faced with higher taxes and over-stretched services.

## Gummer puts block on homes for jet set

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE'S first "Skypark" — a luxury estate of homes with aircraft hangars — has been refused planning permission. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said noise from the proposed £20 million American-style village near Telford, Shropshire, would disturb local people and intrude into the countryside.

The 65-house development on 130 acres of farmland at Shawbirch was designed to lure wealthy executives. Each home, starting at £210,000, would have had an aircraft hanger in the garden and a taxiway to the main airstrip.

The proposals were called in by the Environment Department after a public enquiry in July last year. Wrekin District Council and Shropshire County Council backed the Skypark.

Tony Baldry, the environment minister, said that he could see no evidence to justify the development on good quality agricultural land, in the open countryside, and which would affect the quality of life of a significant number of local people.

Skypark was aimed at inter-

national businessmen who, after clinching a deal in Europe, would be able to fly back to Telford and run their jet to the front door. The plans, which included a country club, also allowed for a business aviation service for passengers and freight.

But residents, enraged by the prospect of planes buzzing over Telford, formed the Communities Against Skypark action group. David Blackwell, its chairman, said: "You get a blue-bottle flying around the lounge. What do you do, you want to swat it. The aeroplanes would have had the same annoying effect. It would have been a nuisance."

Mr Blackwell said that the group had attracted up to 2,500 campaigners and its objections had been endorsed by Mr Gummer.

Steve Williams, the director of Birmingham-based developers Skypark (UK), accused the Environment Department of making its decision on emotive grounds. "Once again aviation has been the victim of perceived environmental problems," he said.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER three rounds of the super-tournament in Linares, Spain, Anatoly Karpov is poised to seize the sole lead. He has adjourned with a winning endgame against Miguel Illescas.

White: Miguel Illescas  
Black: Anatoly Karpov  
Adjourned position

It is likely that Black's king will evade the checks and that his d-pawn will queen.

The most brilliant game so far was that between Visy Anand of India and Gata Kamsky of the USA.

White: Visy Anand  
Black: Gata Kamsky  
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	e5
6	Bd3	Be6
7	Nb3	Be7
8	Bc2	Nd7
9	O-O	g6
10	g4	Nb6
11	f4	b5
12	Rg1	b4
13	Nb4	d5
14	g5	d4
15	Bxd4	Bxb3
16	gxf6	Bxf6
17	axb3	exd4
18	O-O-O	Nc5
19	14	Nf3
20	Og2	Ng1
21	e5	O-O
22	Bd3	Bne5
23	ba5	Qh4+
24	Rg1	Qh4+
25	Kb1	Qne5
26	Nc5	Ra7
27	Oc6	Qe3
28	Rg2	Kf8
29	Ra2	Qg1+
30	Ka2	Ra8
31	Nd7	Rac8
32	Qc3	f5
33	Nd8	Rc5
34	Ng6+	Qc6
35	Re1	Qh6
36	Qa6+	Kf7
37	Be4	Rc6
38	Qg6+	Kg6
39	Rg1+	Black resigns

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Major's task when he meets Clinton will be to emphasise the usefulness of Anglo-American links

## Special relationship can survive a cold shoulder

It is never agreeable to be snubbed by an old friend. Also it is shaming to see one of the founders of the world anti-terrorist club suddenly reverse itself and admit Gerry Adams to the open arms of television interviewers. What would Washington have said if Britain had granted a visa to George Habash on the ground that he had something to contribute to the Middle Eastern peace process — something other than bombs, that is?

But there are more important, though not less irritating, things for Bill Clinton and John Major to talk about than Mr Adams. There is the future of Nato, for example, placed at risk by Bosnian "decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse". Democratic administrations have always been peculiarly liable to pressure from the Irish lobbies of Boston and New York. A policy disagreement like that over Suez was a more serious affair altogether, but even that rift was soon mended. Five years later, Harold Macmillan was playing the wise old Greek to John F. Kennedy's energetic young Roman, a role that was rewarded by the Nassau agreement and the salvaging of Britain's nuclear deterrent through Washington's readiness to provide Polaris.

So will Mr Major find the special relationship between Britain and the United States on its deathbed? If so, it is a remarkably sudden demise. To take only one aspect of it, over the last 50 years three Prime Ministers have had close personal relations with their opposite number in the White House. From 1940 onwards, there have been regular meetings between British and American officials and a confidential relationship between intelligence services. Co-operation has been continuous over many decades. That might be thought a little special; at least, it is not to be found in relations between the US and other countries.

If now there is a coldness, partly due to the idiosyncrasy of Conservative Central Office, that will hardly sweep away so much history, so much ingrained habit. In fact, Anglo-

**Foreign policy is not a monogamous affair.**  
**Anthony Hartley writes, as two old friends recover from the sulks over their latest spat**

American relations cover much more than contacts between governments. The political ties were acquired in two world wars, which themselves were part of a process through which the US took over from Britain the difficult responsibility of maintaining the European balance of power. Between 1890 and 1947, attitudes in the US changed from suspicion of an imperialist Britain to a realisation of the need to replace it, first in a struggle against German expansion and, much later, in the defence of Western Europe against a perceived Soviet threat.

In the course of this association, Anglo-American relations took on an intimacy for which it is hard to find a parallel. Like all intimate relationships, it includes the possi-

### The Times Essay

bility of one or other side feeling aggrieved. When Dean Acheson remarked that Britain had lost an empire and not found a role, he was speaking as a candid friend. He would never have used the same language to Adenauer or De Gaulle.

This intimacy sprang from many kinds of human contact, other than political. A common language is perhaps the major factor. Whatever divergences of usage there may be between the two sides of the Atlantic, Hollywood and television are steering us towards understanding and, incidentally, ensuring that the US should be by far the greatest cultural influence on British life. Not that the traffic is one way. Hollywood's victorious executives. Opponents of Bar-

oness Thatcher, too, are very the infiltration of American newspapers by British journalists. But is Britain, where an increasingly egalitarian society has become more like that of the US over the past 20 years, merely a sally-port through which American culture makes forays into Europe? Not merely are there many examples of "feedback" across the Atlantic, but it is easy to observe the emergence of a mid-Atlantic idiom which heralds the onset of a global culture with English for its medium.

The economic ties between Britain and America hardly need pointing out. Britain receives the lion's share of American investment in Europe.

It is also the largest foreign investor in the US, only falling slightly behind Japan in 1992. Germany apart, America still remains Britain's largest trading partner. Wall Street and the City of London, competing but also complementary markets, exist in a symbiosis which can only grow as the North American Free Trade Area offers new opportunities for the construction of a global economy.

Britain's support for free trade within the European Union makes it an important partner for the US in a world from which protectionism has not been banished by the Uruguay Round.

The relationship between Britain and America has deep roots within the societies of both countries, which gives political relations their resilience and enables them to recover from periodic fits of tactlessness and resentment.

But, it is often said, Britain's economic failures and diminished standing in the world make this country a less desirable ally. Germany is now the flavour of the month in Foggy Bottom, and the spices of the Asian rim that titillate the palate of American executives. Opponents of Bar-

oness Thatcher, too, are very willing to regard her close relations with the Washington of Ronald Reagan as a delusion that prevents Britain from getting on with its proper business of building the EU. For them, not only is Britain becoming less important to the US, but America should become less important to Britain.

Foreign policy, however, is not a monogamous affair. To allow our relations with the US to languish to demonstrate our newly acquired European sincerity would be a ludicrous act of diplomatic self-mutilation, unpopular with the British electorate and incomprehensible to everyone else.

British foreign policy has always tried to find a balance between its "continental commitment" and its position as a country that faces the Atlantic. In the past these options have been complementary, not contradictory, and there is no reason why we should abandon such flexibility now. The US is still our major ally. It is natural that British Governments should value relations with Washington.

America's European commitment has not been changed as much as appeared after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Three major objectives of American policy — non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, continuation of the arms control dialogue with the successor states of the Soviet Union, and safeguarding the oil resources of the Persian Gulf — require European bases and reliable allies with efficient armed forces that can be deployed overseas if necessary.

If America is the only credible intervener in the world today, Britain and France are the only European countries with troops available to stand at its side, as they did during the Gulf War. Despite the present honeymoon between Paris and Washington over Bosnia, Britain is more likely to view issues from the same perspective as the US.

As for the future reliance on the European Union, the contradictions and errors of a divided Community from the very start of the Yugoslav civil war show how chimerical were the hopes attached to the



Together: Macmillan and Kennedy in 1962

Maastricht Treaty. The words in which the new European kid on the block declared he could handle Bosnia make odd reading now. When action is needed, it is back to Nato and leadership from Washington.

When John Major arrives in Washington, he will have to tell President Clinton that Britain and America are too useful to each other for lasting sulks, but also that a familiar relationship does not excuse tactlessness. Our two countries have lived on close terms for a long time. Our views of international problems are usually the same; we are both convinced free-traders and supporters of a market economy; we both have experience of global power.

America still needs a reliable ally in Europe. Britain

still needs a protector from across the Atlantic. Does this add up to a special relationship? Yes, if we realise that this does not always mean the ability to influence each other's policies.

Mr Major must understand that American respect is gained by success in areas that count: a well-managed economy, effective armed forces and the visible exercise of political leadership. As *The Wall Street Journal* put it delicately: "While Mrs Thatcher was Prime Minister, Britain was not a nation in decline." Her relationship with the US was "special" indeed, but she had earned it.

*America and Britain*, Anthony Hartley's pamphlet for the Centre for Policy Studies, is published today.

## Triangle becomes more equilateral

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AN AMERICAN role in Anglo-Irish negotiations has long been an anxious point for Britain. After the fiasco of the Gerry Adams visa, that role will more than ever be a sensitive issue in John Major's discussions today with President Clinton.

Over the years, Britain has been forced to accept that America does have a legitimate interest in Irish affairs and activist policy on the conflict in Northern Ireland.

The return of the Democrats and the appointment of Jean Kennedy Smith as ambassador to Dublin gave the Irish lobby new clout. Mrs Smith, arriving in Dublin with a determination to contribute to peace-making, allied herself with the Irish government and those challenging the status quo in the North, especially John Hume.

The Fianna Fail government was delighted. Previously, Dublin could count on Washington only as a channel to counter Margaret Thatcher's dismissive intransigence, sending messages to London via Washington in the hope that Irish views would at least

be listened to. Now Dublin has found a direct route, via the Kennedy connection, to the National Security Council and the Oval office. The triangular relationship became more equilateral.

The Adams affair exacerbated relations between the American embassies in London and Dublin — Raymond Seitz, the US ambassador to Britain, lobbied strongly against a visa but lost out to Mrs Smith — and led some Conservative and Unionist politicians to ask whether her intervention was counter-productive, upsetting the alliance between Mr Major and Mr Reynolds.

Mr Major is unlikely to harp on the Adams affair: he knows that British anger was keenly felt in Washington. But he will make clear the British view that mediation should be confined to passive support for the bilateral Anglo-Irish talks and cracking down on IRA activity and Noraid fundraising in America. That is not necessarily the view of the Dublin government, John Hume or Jean Kennedy Smith.

## Party advisers defend role in US election

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE two political advisers at the centre of controversy over Tory Party assistance to George Bush's 1992 presidential election campaign are unrepentant about their roles.

Both Sir John Lacey, the party's former director of campaigning, and Mark Fullbrook, former head of campaigning and now an independent adviser to Tory MPs, remain close to the party's high command.

Sir John retired last year as special consultant to Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman. He said last night: "I would be very proud to think of my 10-day visit having had any influence over the outcome of the election."

While John Major attempted to distance himself from the men's activities when the extent of bitterness in the

White House became clear, Sir Norman continued to employ Sir John as a personal consultant after he had retired from his campaigning post.

President Clinton will be interested to learn that Mr Fullbrook, who works with right-of-centre parties in Europe and Russia, will be advising Republicans in the next presidential campaign. His company, Parliamentary Liaison Services, made such an impact in the United States it was invited back to advise on how to establish a grassroots organisation similar to that in the Tory Party.

Mr Fullbrook said: "The Republican Party is a sister party. We have nothing to be embarrassed about. We set out the same message: tax and trust. It worked for the Tories in the 1992 election."

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Description of property: \_\_\_\_\_  
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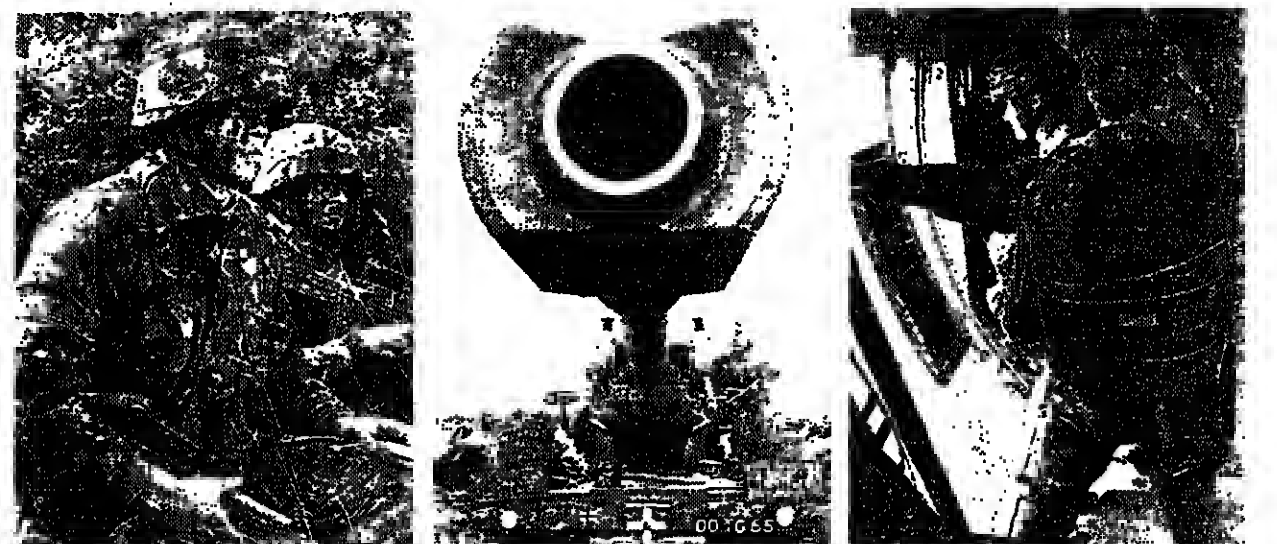
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# Stubborn Croats step up their demands on Mostar Muslims

FROM TOM RHODES  
IN WEST MOSTAR

FROM A Bosnian Croat hide-out in the hills above the city of Mostar, Gordan Bozic, a commander in the 4th Brigade, was eager to prove that he and his men had no wish to continue the fight for their city. Four mortars, instruments of death since the start of Mostar's internecine struggle nine months ago, pointed skyward, their covers firmly on and, Commander Bozic said, they had not been fired for days.

His words were short-lived. Eleven shells fell on the Muslim eastern part of the city late on Saturday. Two explosions were heard early yesterday in the same area. Colonel Antonio Castro, of the UN Protection Force's (Unprofor) Spanish battalion, said. Under the ceasefire negotiated in Zagreb between the Bosnian Croat and Muslim forces, these mortars should be either withdrawn six miles or placed under UN control by March 7.

Earlier Commander Bozic had been adamant. "We will follow our orders and will not

■ Mostar's Croat-Muslim ceasefire is already looking doubtful. The Serbs have guns threatening the city and the Croats insist they must also be forced into a truce



fire back unless we are attacked," he said. "We all want peace, but too many Croats have died defending our city and, if the price of peace is too high, then it is not a peace we can live with. We have only defended what is ours, we have never been the aggressor."

UN military observers have been much in evidence throughout the high ground

overlooking Mostar. UN officials say that members of the HVO, the Bosnian Croat defence force, do not wish to show that many of their tanks above Mostar in fact belong to the Croatian army.

Nevertheless, in west Mostar at least, the atmosphere was extraordinarily calm before the latest shelling. Traffic jams snarled the main street just 150 yards from the front line with the Muslims. In the Cafe Hollywood, soldiers and their girlfriends drank beer and coffee in the afternoon sunshine.

It was hard to imagine the total devastation that is eastern Mostar, less than a mile away, where the sight of food and cigarettes causes a virtual riot among the haggard children and adults. The difference between the two sides is simply immeasurable. It is evident that the people on

both banks of the Neretva have different views of the future of the city. The fierce house-to-house battles and shelling which have brought appalling casualties to both sides have not created a climate of equanimity.

The mainly Muslim war presidency in eastern Mostar is not prepared to yield to Croat pressure for Mostar to become the capital of the Croat republic of Hercegovina. They also want independent access to the Dalmatian coast, not to mention the return to their homes of 37,000 refugees from western Herzegovina. In west Mostar it is apparent that the Bosnian Croats are only prepared for a federation with the Bosnians if Mostar is to be the capital of their republic.

They say that, at the last election in 1991, the Croatian HDZ party was democratically elected to lead the local government and that Mostar was nominated as an administrative centre for the Croats. "It is the only city which has hospitals, universities, theatres and an airport," Tony Pehar, director of the war theatre, said. Mostar, unlike

Sarajevo, is on a fault line between all three warring sides. The Bosnian Serbs were the first to bombard the city during the Croatian war and then, after the Spanish battalion of the UN withdrew on May 8 last year, the Croats and Muslims started their own battle. The Croats now blame the Bosnians for setting up their own army in the city and said they would not accept two armies in Mostar, thus creating a further difficulty for negotiators.

The Bosnian Serbs still have guns trained on the city from the east. Veso Vego, spokesman for the HVO, said they must now be forced to enter talks as the HVO withdraws its weaponry from around the city. "Their weapons still outnumber the combined forces of both the HVO and the Bosnian army."

For the moment, the main concern remains the lack of trust between the fighters in the city itself. Major Franjo Coric, commander of the 4th Brigade, insisted that this latest ceasefire must work, but was sceptical about whether the Muslims would honour the agreement.



An old man makes his perilous journey across the new suspension bridge built in east Mostar to replace the old crossing destroyed by Croat HVO forces last November

## Tudjman backs American plan for federation

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN ZAGREB

AS THE two-day-old ceasefire between Croat and Muslim forces broke down in Mostar at the weekend, Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian President, endorsed an American-backed plan for Muslim and Croat areas of Bosnia to form a federation that would eventually seek an association with Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

Representatives from both sides met in Washington yesterday for US-sponsored talks aimed at rebuilding the alliance, which collapsed last May. In his house — formerly the home of Tito — Dr Tudjman made it clear last week that he was willing to strike an accord in return for American-backed international guarantees of help for Croatia's effort to regain land seized by Serbs, and financial aid. The West, he said, had realised the danger of an ethnically pure Muslim state in the heart of Europe.

Dr Tudjman said the road to an agreement would be difficult. He saw the talks as Croatia's chance to improve its

international standing. Pressure from Washington has had a sobering effect, as have promises of support for Croatia's entry into the Council of Europe and eventual links with Nato under the Partnership for Peace plan.

The Croatian leader also wants to strengthen his country's hand in negotiations with the Serbian regime of Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade. "There can be no peace in the Balkans without an agreement between the Serbs and the Croats, which is in fact the key to peace in the Balkans," he said.

Dr Tudjman wants hardliners within his party to realise that all the main Western countries are pressing for a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "Russia too has now entered and she remains a strong and important Euro-Asian power," Dr Tudjman told party activists last week, explaining why Croatia was seeking accommodation with the Bosnian Muslims.

"All of them insist that we must reach agreement with the Muslims," he said, adding that Croatia's condition would be a federation of two republics. "We Croats have a bitter historic experience, so we must do everything to secure the survival of the Croatian nation there [in Bosnia], and also in a territorial sense."

Washington has promised to help Croatia reintegrate regions now held by the Serbs. However, it has also said that Croatia must protect human rights within its own Serbian population.

Dr Tudjman said he would never relinquish territory now under United Nations protection and held by the Serbs. Sanctions against Serbia, he said, should not be lifted until this issue was resolved.



Tudjman: sees talks as chance to improve image

## Athens admits 'shock tactics'

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN ATHENS

THE Greek Foreign Minister admitted at the weekend that Athens had closed the port of Salonika to all Macedonian goods as a "shock tactic" to force a resolution to its long-running dispute with Skopje over the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's name, flag and constitution.

Karolos Papoulias said he did not want a confrontation, but this was the only way to let Skopje and the world know how strongly Greece felt about the matter. Athens would lift the embargo, imposed this month, only if the Skopje government changed its flag and dropped articles in its constitution that implied territorial claims on Greece.

Speaking on the eve of talks here with Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who will warn the Greek government today that its European Union partners condemn the closure of Salonika, Mr Papoulias also called for a new pan-Balkan conference after a ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina to resolve lingering tensions in the region.

Mr Papoulias said there had been an explosion of popular anger in Greece over

the former Yugoslav republic's "insult". The government had to do something to force a confrontation as one by one other countries were establishing diplomatic relations with Skopje. The Salonika decision had been hastened by the recent American decision to establish relations.

Asked whether the move was illegal under European Union law, Mr Papoulias said there was a long history of illegal moves in the EU, citing the actions of fishermen and farmers who had forced a change of policy. Greece had given its legal justification to Brussels, but the move was essentially political. "The government was forced to act by the threats in the constitution of that state. Greeks feel threatened by the propaganda from Skopje," he said.

Hans van den Broek, the EU External Affairs Commissioner, spent two days last week in fruitless shuttles between Athens and Skopje to mediate. The Commission is threatening to take the Greek government to the European Court of Justice, a move officials here acknowledge is now likely.

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# Battle lines drawn in struggle for South Africa's land

AS you enter the office of President de Klerk, you pass portraits of his predecessors, from General Louis Botha to P.W. Botha by way of Jan Smuts and Hendrik Verwoerd. All were white and Mr de Klerk is the last of the line. After April 28, the man holding court in Pretoria will be Nelson Mandela, released by Mr de Klerk in 1990.

The move stemmed, Mr de Klerk maintains, from Calvinist moral values. It was also calculated to avert a "devastating revolution" by replacing apartheid with a new system under which Mr de Klerk's National Party would give up power in the hope of sharing it.

That vision is threatened not only by the refusal of two groups — the Afrikaner right led by General Constand Viljoen, and the Zulus of the Inkatha Freedom Party — to acquiesce in it, but also by dormant black anger and bitterness in the sprawling townships and shanty towns. The resentment in black areas such as Mitchell's Plain, in Cape Town, or Kaitshong, near Johannesburg, could spill over after the April election if Mr Mandela and the African National Congress cannot meet their fol-

**Richard Owen, Foreign Editor, argues that hopes of a peaceful transition to a government of national unity in Pretoria may be shattered by civil war**

lowers' high expectations. At the root of the black dreams lies an emotive issue: land and property.

The white right and the Zulus are also obsessed with land. General Viljoen argues that Afrikaners are entitled to an (ill-defined) Boer state of the kind that they were denied while under British rule. On

his wall hangs a quotation from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was knighted during the Boer War for his services in a field hospital at Bloemfontein. He found the Boers a "rugged, virile, unconquerable race", trained in "constant warfare against savage men and ferocious beasts", tempered by "a dur-



Arthur Conan Doyle, whose praise of Boers as a "virile, unconquerable race" is echoed by today's white right

fatalistic Old Testament religion and an ardent and consuming patriotism". Today's Boers, General Viljoen says, will not hesitate to seize land and keep it by force, and they have friends in the security forces to help them.

For the Zulus too — or rather the Inkatha Freedom Party, since some Zulus appear ready to back the ANC — land is the key issue. King Goodwill Zwelithini insists that the kind of federation offered by Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk is not enough. He wants the Zulu kingdom restored within its 1834 boundaries. For the Zulus, land and hereditary rule are inextricably linked. There is speculation over whether King Goodwill is acting independently of his prickly uncle and Chief Minister, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, or whether Chief Buthelezi is manipulating his nephew.

The key point is that Chief Buthelezi is Chief Minister by birthright — he is a Zulu prince — as well as by election. Visitors are disconcerted to find officials addressing him on their knees. Neither he nor the King can easily be bought off with promises of a "constitutional monarchy" in a federation in which central



Nelson Mandela, likely to be the first black President, would have to fulfil high hopes

control rests with the ANC. Above all, many of the ANC's own followers feel they have been victimised and want compensation. "Our people seriously believe they will get a nice house with a swimming pool, just like the whites", one black teacher from Mitchell's Plain said. "Or they want back the land stolen from

their grandfathers." Such hopes boost right-wing support for General Viljoen or, farther to the right, Eugene TerreBlanche and his avowedly racist AWB.

The hope of Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela is that blacks, whites and Coloureds will work together to give the new South Africa a vibrant

economy. Already blacks are gaining jobs through "affirmative action". According to Mike Myburgh, Chief Executive of South African Airways, 17 per cent of airline staff, nearly all white, took redundancy pay last year and their jobs were taken by blacks.

In Cape Town I met the liberal Afrikaner writer Rian

Malan, who fears that such moves are too little, too late. "If the new government fails to meet the expectations of poorer blacks, there will be a return to insurrectionary politics," he said. "Equally, if the new government caves in to pressure from below, right-wingers in the army and police will use their guns to protect their privileges. Either way there will be civil war." Already white capital is flowing out of the country, legally and illegally, and many white South Africans will follow their money if they feel threatened.

Mr de Klerk says he has "contingency plans" — almost certainly including internment of those inciting violence — to cope with civil war. But police say there are already a million Kalashnikovs in the country, many smuggled in from neighbouring countries.

Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela, in the view of moderate whites and blacks I met, have a "good fighting chance". But if South Africa has to cope simultaneously with a violent right-wing backlash, all-out Zulu-ANC war and black frustration, hopes of a peaceful transition will be overwhelmed by bloody turmoil.

## Contract assassins hunted on Riviera

By CHARLES BRENNER

POLICE sounded out the networks of the Riviera Mafia yesterday for clues to the murder of Yann Piat, a right-wing member of the French parliament who was shot dead in what is assumed to have been a "contract" ordered by the local underworld.

As a campaigner against the crime and political corruption along the Mediterranean coast, Mme Piat, 44, had long expected to fall victim to an assassin, friends said. During last year's elections a grenade was thrown at the office of the former member of the far-right National Front party in Hyères, the city she represented. Among many threats she had recently received, one said: "We'll have your hide and your daughter's."

The political world deplored the killing, the first of a sitting deputy in France since 1976, but which had similarities with half a dozen "hits" against local mayors. Few have been solved by police, François Léotard, the Defence Minister, who represents the nearby coastal town of Fréjus, said the killing "confirms the active presence of an underworld in the south of France". Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader who was Mme Piat's mentor before their recent estrangement, said the murder showed that French political life was rotten to the core.



Piat received many personal threats

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pacifism tops Green agenda

Bonn: Germany's Green Party yesterday came close to excluding itself from power in a future Bonn government by embracing a strict pacifist and anti-nuclear programme at its party conference in Mannheim (Ruger Boyes writes).

The Greens are participating in a number of state and local governments, including a ruling alignment with the Social Democrats in Lower Saxony, where elections will be held in three weeks. The pragmatic wing of the party had hoped that the so-called Red-Green coalition would emerge strongly in Lower Saxony and in the October general election.

However, the Greens' decision that Nato, the German army and all other European armies should be dissolved, and its demand that Germany withdraw from all nuclear projects within two years, makes this unlikely.

### War games

Tehran: Iranian and Pakistani naval forces began ten days of joint exercises in the Indian Ocean, including submarine manoeuvres, Tehran radio reported. They are the first Iranian joint naval exercises with a foreign force since the 1979 revolution. (Reuters)

### Visas granted

Vienna: The International Atomic Energy Agency has received entry visas to North Korea and a six-member team will arrive in Pyongyang tomorrow to carry out inspections of seven declared nuclear facilities, the agency said. (Reuters)

### Moldavia votes

Kishinev, Moldavia: The Agrarian Democrat Party, led by former Communists, is expected to win the first Moldavia parliamentary elections since independence, which took place yesterday.

### Dynastic date

Frankfurt: Eighty Rothschild family members celebrated the birth in 1744 of Mayer Amschel, founder of the banking dynasty. The name comes from his address, the house of the red shield. (Reuters)

## Art beats box office for French awards

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE French film world has followed its usual preference for intellect over entertainment and awarded its César prizes to *Smoking/No Smoking*, an experimental art film by Alain Resnais based on a script by Alain Ayekbourn.

Also true to tradition, the media yesterday questioned the wisdom of the French academy in opting for the obscure and awarding only a single secondary prize to *Les Visiteurs*, the time-travel comedy that has become the most successful film in French history.

Perhaps more surprising were the mere two Césars for photography and costumes, that went to *Germinal*, the Claude Berri epic starring Gérard Depardieu. France's flagship in the war with

Hollywood in the Gatt world trade negotiations.

*Smoking/No Smoking*, which stars Pierre Arditi, is in fact a pair of films that explore the role of chance in shaping destiny. Each actor plays six different roles and the films offer a variety of endings. The chattering classes like it, but it is not drawing the masses who revelled in *Les Visiteurs*.

As well as best film, *Smoking/No Smoking* won a best actor César for Arditi and best director prize for Resnais and two other awards. Best actress went to Juliette Binoche for her role as a bereaved woman in *Bleu*, the first in a trilogy by Krzysztof Kieslowski, the Polish director. Best foreign film went to *The Piano* by Jane Campion, of New Zealand.

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# Islamic militants threaten to target all friends of Israel



Goldstein: triggered new risk of attacks by the fundamentalists

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

THE rising tide of Islamic militancy sweeping through the Arab world from the Gulf to the Atlantic has been given fresh momentum by the emotions whipped up by the Hebron massacre. Anybody or anything remotely linked with Israel is seen as a legitimate target for revenge in what extreme Islamic leaders have been describing to their angry followers as a holy duty.

Such is the atmosphere of hatred and suspicion that there was immediate speculation that the explosion which killed ten Maronite Catholic worshippers in Lebanon yesterday was the first in a series of tit-for-tat attacks planned by Islamic hardliners.

The theory, which has not been supported by any claim of responsibility, gained credibility because Muslims still resent the military ties between Israel and the Lebanese Christian warlords at the start of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

■ Islamic hardliners, seeking a tooth for a tooth after the Hebron massacre, accuse the West of turning its back on Arab victims of genocidal attack. The killings have added to the hostility the PLO faces in its search for a peace deal

Twenty-four hours before the explosion I had been told by a young Egyptian in contact with the armed Islamic militants: "There will be big, big trouble as a result of Hebron and it will start tomorrow in the churches."

In the minds of hardline Islamic leaders, all those connected with governments that support Israel are considered fair game for revenge. Egypt has been singled out because of its peace treaty with Israel, while citizens of leading Western nations such as the United States and Britain are regarded as soft targets. The stabbing of an elderly British tourist in Jordan on Friday was the first overt act of retaliation. Islamic fury at

what is seen as desecration of the holiest of all Islamic rituals, dawn prayer during the fasting month of Ramadan, has been reinforced by a conviction that the West, particularly America, reacts with double standards when dealing with the Arab-Israeli dispute.

This feeling, exacerbated by the continuing imposition of United Nations sanctions against Iraq and Libya, deepened yesterday when the UN failed to agree an immediate resolution in response to the Hebron killings because of American reservations.

The Egyptian Gazette reflected Arab feelings in a savage article headlined "Goldstein's List", a reference to the New

York-born settler who opened fire in Hebron. It mocked the interest generated in the West by the *Schindler's List* film of the Holocaust, implying that such concern would never be shown for Arab victims of genocidal attack.

The problems that the Hebron massacre have sown for pro-Western regimes were brutally demonstrated in Cairo yesterday when hundreds of police and students trying to march to the Israeli embassy defied police firing tear gas. Many of the students shouting Allah-ho Akbar ("God is greater") were wounded.

The anger triggered by the timing, location and horror of the Hebron massacre has reinforced the link between fundamentalists and radical Palestinians that even before offered the main resistance to the limited autonomy deal between Israel and the PLO, signed in Washington. At weekend protest marches in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, was denounced as a pig, one of the greatest Islamic insults and branded "enemy of

God". As thousands gathered outside the main mosque in Amman, the capital of Jordan whose population is 60 per cent Palestinian, Basam al-Amoush, a fundamentalist MP, shouted: "We want revenge extracted for every drop of sacred blood that has fallen from our martyrs in Palestine." Local papers published editions with black borders.

"We will respond to this incident with more violent attacks", pledged a Palestinian guerrilla in the squalid Ain Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon as loudspeakers blared out verses from the Koran. "A tooth for a tooth."

Providing spiritual fuel to the spreading Islamic fire, as well as more practical assistance in the form of arms and money, was Iran. "An explicit and practical support of the Islamic countries, above all, the Islamic republic of Iran, for retaliatory measures by revolutionary Muslims is the least the oppressed Palestinian nation rationally expects of their brethren", the Tehran paper *Salam* commented.

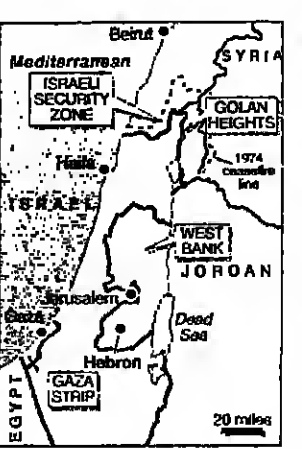
## Jewish extremists praise killer as national hero

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN HEBRON

JEWISH zealots living in and around Hebron remained unrepentant about last week's mass murder of Muslim worshippers and uncowed by Israel's decision yesterday to crack down on their activities.

Like their biblical antecedents, who preferred suicide to surrender, the several thousand strong Jewish community in this ancient city has displayed little or no remorse for the slaughter of 50 Arabs. The general attitude was best summed up by a rabbi who delivered a eulogy at yesterday's funeral of Baruch Goldstein, the perpetrator of Friday's attack. "One million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail," he said, as 300 other mourners paid their respects.

At the same time, Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, and Cabinet colleagues approved a series of measures against Jewish extremists, targeting in particular the racist Kach movement, whose leaders face detention and whose supporters could be disarmed. However, only minutes after the new measures were announced, Baruch Marzel, a resident of Hebron and a Kach leader, vowed that his organisation would not be destroyed.



Goldstein's settlement of Kiryat Arba, supposedly under curfew since Friday night. A visit to the 6,000-strong community revealed that businesses, schools and offices remained open with Israeli soldiers reduced to escorting traffic in the area.

"If they ban the movement, then a different movement with a different name will be established," Mr Marzel, who spoke on a mobile telephone from a hiding place in Jerusalem, said. He went on to describe Goldstein as a "close personal friend" and a "hero of the Israeli people". Although probably only a

tiny minority, perhaps less than 10 per cent of the overall Jewish settler population, of 115,000 shares similar extremist views, most of them are concentrated in Hebron, living side by side with 90,000 Palestinians. Many of the activists are reservists in Israeli combat units and often succeed in intimidating the young soldiers sent to keep them apart from the Arabs.

A measure of how little control the authorities have over the settlers was visible at on young students. "If they ban Kach, it will just go underground," said Yitzhak Newman, 22, who added that most of Kiryat Arba's population sympathised with Goldstein's attack.

"I don't know why people call it a massacre. These people were not innocent. They are the same people who incite to murder Jews," said the youth, an immigrant from New York. "In war this kind of action is legitimate, just like the bombing of Dresden. In the end either we will go or the Arabs will go. But we will not go without a fight."

Danny Ozel, a teenager living in Kiryat Arba went as far as urging other Jews to follow Goldstein's example. "He did what he did to stop the peace process, and it was an heroic deed. But it will only work if more people will take up his example. And there are more people who will here."

Kiryat Arba was founded by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a Jewish extremist who was imprisoned for a few months after he shot dead a local Arab shopkeeper after a stoning incident. Other influential residents include Rabbi Dov Lior, who once advocated "experiments" on convicted Arab terrorists and proposed random reprisal shootings after attacks on Jews.



Lebanese soldiers inspecting the damage in the Sayyidet al-Najat church, north of Beirut, after a bomb exploded yesterday during a service

## Altar bombs rip through packed church

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DOZENS of people were taking Communion as two wired mortar bombs, planted near the altar in the Sayyidet al-Najat (Our Lady of Salvation) church, exploded. Ten people, including a four-year-old girl, were killed. Father Antioch Sfeir, the priest, and 60 worshippers were seriously wounded.

Pools of blood covered the church floor. The area round the altar was littered with human remains and fragments of bloodied clothes and shoes, shattered glass, shredded copies of the Bible and other debris. The inscription, "Our Lady of Deliver-

ance, protect us", was also damaged. A wounded woman who was at the church said she never heard the explosion. "I just felt I went deaf and I found myself lying. Then it was all over, there were mutilated bodies all around me and my husband was dead," she added as she wept. Her head and right eye were heavily bandaged. Another woman said: "I was attending Mass with my sisters and my children. It was during the reading of the holy scriptures that I heard a huge explosion. I thought a shell had struck the church. The stained glass was shattered. People panicked, they screamed and ran around as fast as they could to escape."

That's when I realised that the explosion took place under the altar. The church was so packed today that there were even people standing in the courtyard outside."

Rafik Hariri, the Muslim Lebanese Prime Minister, went to the church after the attack and said it was carried out by "foreign hands" to "cover up" the Hebron massacre. A similar charge was made by Fares Bouciz, the Foreign Minister, a Maronite. Sami al-Khatib, head of the Lebanese parliament's defence affairs committee, went further: "The dark Israeli hands carried out the crime". Michel Semaha, the Information Minister, said the blast may have been aimed at

balancing the Pope's visit to Lebanon in May. Several Muslim fundamentalist groups have expressed reservations about the visit. The Pope, speaking in St Peter's Square, denounced the bombing and the Hebron massacre. He told pilgrims and tourists that he was suffering together with Maronite Christians over what he called "a crime that offends Lebanon and its noble traditions".

The bombing yesterday at the Maronite church in Lebanon, in the Zouk area eight miles north of Beirut, occurred soon after 9 am, police said. The 82mm mortar bombs had been placed next to the wall, to the right of the first row of pews.

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## Waco cult trial ends in embarrassing failure

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK



Reno: tried to be positive about verdict

THE American government brought in huge legal firepower for the trial of 11 surviving members of the Branch Davidian cult but, like the initial raid on the cult compound near Waco a year ago today, the result was an embarrassing and costly failure.

Prosecutors produced nearly 1,500 pieces of evidence and called 130 witnesses in the course of the seven-week trial, but on Saturday a jury in San Antonio, Texas, acquitted all the defendants of murder and conspiracy charges and convicted just five, including two Britons, on lesser charges of voluntary manslaughter. A third Briton was acquitted of all charges.

While Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, sought to portray the result in a positive light, the verdicts have been greeted as yet another blow to the prestige of the FBI and ATF (Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms) and a fitting finale to one of the most disastrous law enforcement operations in US history. "The ghost of Waco will be with me all of my life," Miss Reno said at a press conference.

But the strange, grim saga of the Waco siege is not over yet, because the families of four federal agents killed during the raid on the compound on February 28 last year are expected to sue, arguing that officials allowed the assault to go ahead while knowing that the cult members, tipped off in advance, were armed and waiting. "Their supervisors and the leaders of the ATF need to be held responsible," said Dick De Guerin, the lawyer who represented David Koresh, the cult leader,

negotiate with tanks and tear gas," Dan Cogdell, a defence lawyer, said after the verdicts were announced. "You do not assault people when there are people inside that do not need assaulting."

Despite the fact that four defendants were acquitted of all charges and none of the 11 was found guilty of murder, government officials continued to refer to a "murderous ambush" by the cultists as they tried to derive some comfort from the verdicts. However, two independent reviews of the Waco episode released late last year concluded that federal agents had failed to communicate effectively, made faulty decisions before, during and after the raid, and then tried to cover up their mistakes. Stephen Higgins, the ATF director, resigned last year and was replaced by John Magaw.

At the start of the trial prosecutors promised to "put a gun in the hand of every defendant", but the evidence against individual Branch Davidians remained slight and often contradictory. The only guns that could be located with any certainty were in the hands of federal agents and a recording of a telephone call to emergency services by Wayne Martin, a cult member and Harvard-trained lawyer, became the central plank in the defence case. No fewer than 25 times Martin, who died in the ensuing fire, begged the emergency operator to make the agents stop firing. "There's 75 men around our building and they're shooting at us! Tell 'em there's women and children in here and to call it off!"

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Troops kill rebel chief

Algiers: Security forces have killed Mourad Si Ahmed, head of the fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group, and nine of his followers. Algerian security officials announced yesterday. Ahmed, 29, had rejected any dialogue with the authorities, which are seeking to end a guerrilla war waged by Muslim fundamentalists opposed to the secular regime. (AFP)

#### Peace demand

Mexico City: Indian rebels holding peace talks with the Mexican government have demanded the resignation of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. They said only a transitional government could ensure fair presidential and legislative elections in August. (Reuters)

#### Port handover

Walvis Bay: Namibia held football matches and concerts to celebrate today's handover of this deep-water port to President Nujoma's government after 74 years of Pretoria rule. The port was a South African army, navy and air base. (AP)

## Italy curbs party political films

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE campaign for the Italian general election on March 27 moved into a decisive phase yesterday as limits were imposed on party political broadcasts.

The contest has raged on Italian television screens since the early election was called by President Scalfaro before Christmas to replace the discredited Parliament elected under the old proportional representation system in April 1992. Under electoral law, campaigning on the small screen will now in theory be rationed, with prime time allocated under legal guidelines.

The controls will test Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon who is running for Prime Minister at the head of a right-wing alliance spearheaded by his Forza Italia grouping.

Until now Signor Berlusconi has received saturation coverage on his three private television channels and has been interviewed repeatedly by chat show hosts in his employ who, naturally have not treated him unkindly. All parties have sought maximum television coverage because they are unsure how they will fare under the mainly first-

past-the post system being used for the first time next month.

The contest is wide open. But an opinion poll for *La Repubblica* last week suggested that the right-wing Liberty Alliance might manage an absolute majority.

Signor Berlusconi has forged a pact with the National Alliance, whose main component is the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement led by Giancarlo Fini, and the devolutionist Northern League led by Umberto Bossi. However, the opinion polls also show that many Italians are still undecided.

It is still likely that the outcome will be a stalemate with the centre parties led by Mario Segni, the organiser of last April's electoral reform referendum, holding the balance of power.

Leading article, page 17

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## Released Rutskoi vows to fight Yeltsin for presidency

FROM ANNE MCELVOY  
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin was left humiliated and vulnerable at the weekend when he failed to prevent the release from prison of the men behind last October's uprising, after the Russian parliament vote to grant a sweeping amnesty. Aleksandr Rutskoi, former Vice-President, Ruslan Khasbulatov, ex-parliamentary speaker, Viktor Anpilov, leader of the hardline Communist Party of Labour, and four other rebels walked free from Lefortovo jail on Saturday, after Mr Yeltsin had failed to persuade Aleksandr Kazannik, the public prosecutor, to declare the pardons illegal on the ground that they could only be granted after the men had been convicted by a court. Mr Kazannik supported the Duma's right to demand the freeing of the prisoners, including the 1991 coup plotters, and resigned.

Yesterday Mr Rutskoi, heavily bearded and showing the strain of his four-and-a-half months behind bars, said that he intended to challenge Mr Yeltsin for the presidency in the 1996 elections. Andrei Fyodorov, his spokesman, said that Mr Rutskoi would return to politics after a two-week holiday. Mr Khasbulatov announced that he

■ The Russian leader's troubles deepened with a defiant prosecutor endorsing the Duma's amnesty. Fear of triggering off bloodshed is likely to discourage him from taking on his enemies again

was quitting politics, saying that he was "disgusted with modern politicians". Mr Anpilov, most vociferous of the prisoners, emerged with his fist clenched and said: "Our struggle has not even begun." The defeat of Mr Yeltsin by the Duma, in his first trial of strength with it



Anpilov says Communist struggle is still to begin

since its election in December, is a sharp knock to his authority. The presidential team appears to have made a key error in granting to the legislature the right to grant amnesties without the Kremlin's approval when it drafted the new constitution.

A presidential spokesman railed against the overwhelming majority of deputies who voted for the pardon as "accomplices in lawlessness" and said that the President was considering using the "full powers of the constitution" against them. But with the men released, and even the usually supportive public prosecutor ruling against him, he is unlikely to move again against his old enemies, fearing the risk of bloodshed and keen on promoting national reconciliation in the wake of the October events.

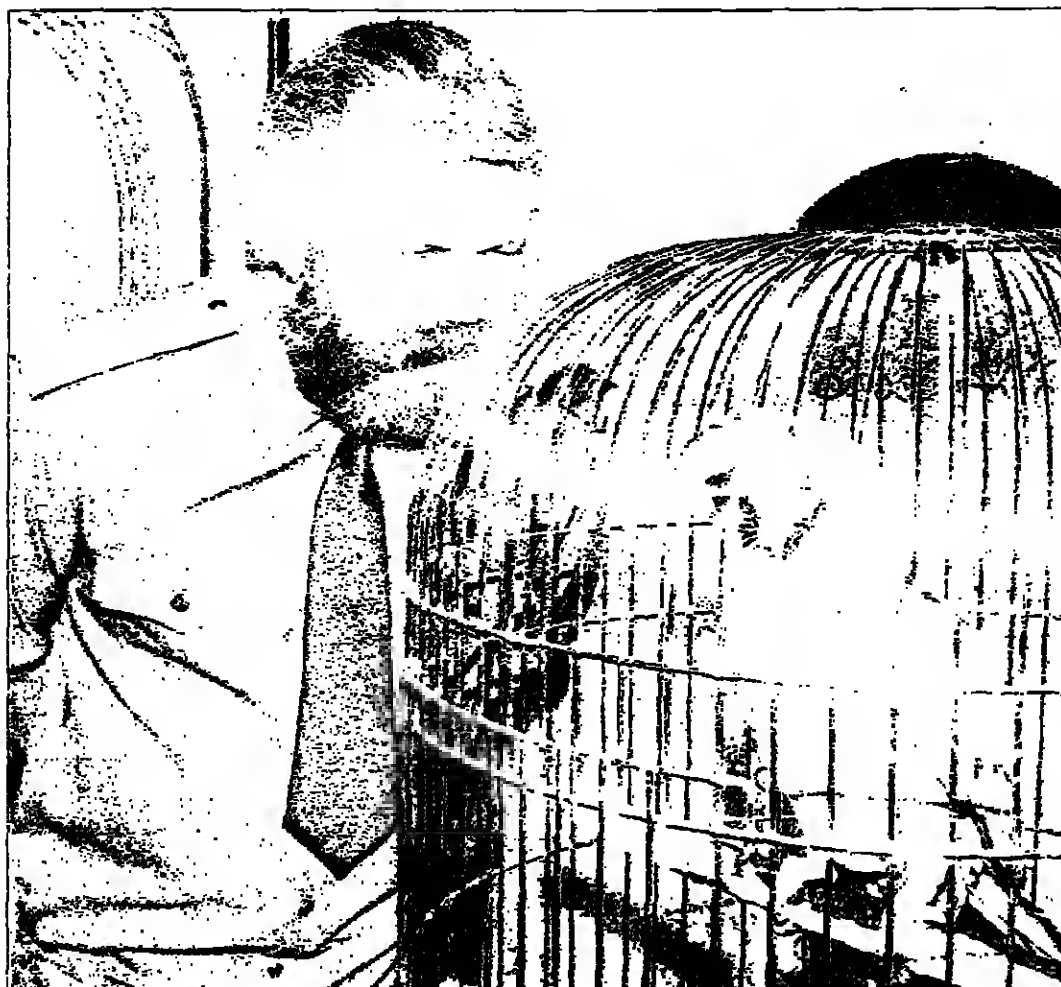
Once again Mr Yeltsin is dogged by a legislature apparently intent on undermining him. This parliament, bristling with Communist and nationalist foes, was freely

elected, and Mr Yeltsin knows that he has little choice but to accommodate it.

Much now depends on how effectively Mr Rutskoi pursues his comeback. Emerging from prison in his old air force general's uniform, decorated with medals he won as a fighter pilot in Afghanistan, he seems intent on pursuing the nationalist-Communist vote. Mr Rutskoi enjoyed some degree of popularity before October, particularly among junior army officers and people who felt that the Soviet Union should not have been allowed to wither away without a fight.

There are, however, some possible advantages for the Kremlin in the amnesty. It obviates the need for a trial of the October rebels, in which they would have presented themselves as martyrs, and brings to an end the inconclusive court case against the 1991 plotters.

□ Brussels: Nato is sending a mission today to persuade Russia to sign up to the alliance's new Partnership for Peace. The American, British and Spanish ambassadors to Nato will go to Moscow to explain Washington's proposal for partnership, which does not contain offers of membership or security guarantees as the East bloc has demanded. (Reuter)



Jail birds: Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former Russian Vice-President who was freed on Saturday after being held in Lefortovo prison since last October, feeding his parrot at home

## Time running out for new states' entry to Europe

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union last night warned Austria and three Scandinavian states applying for membership that they must settle their terms of entry by midnight tonight or delay their date of joining the Union.

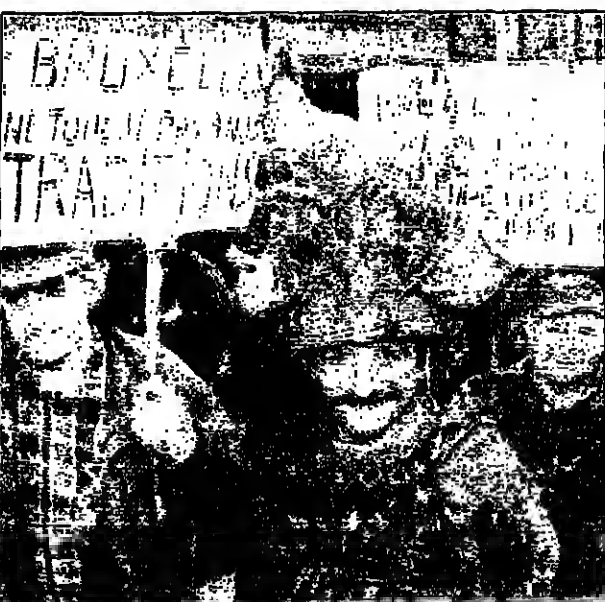
EU governments set themselves a deadline of closing the talks by the end of February, but last night seemed as if they might achieve that for only two of the quartet hoping to join. Sweden and Finland appeared to have resolved all the big controversial issues standing between them and full membership in January next year. Negotiations with Norway and Austria were bogged down with two problems which constantly hamper bargaining: fish and lorries.

If those issues are close to solution tonight, the time-honoured fiddle of "stopping the clock" will be used and, with time suspended, February will continue for a few more hours or possibly even days. But last night Norwegian ministers were still deadlocked with the Spanish over fishing rights, an issue of paramount importance to Norway's economy and political world which derailed the

country's last attempt to join in 1973. Austria is insisting on capping for another decade the number of EU heavy goods lorries which cross its territory. EU negotiators want the limits lifted after only five years.

The Greek minister leading the EU side in the negotiations last night also charged Britain and Spain with threatening the talks by holding out against ten other EU governments over changes to the majority voting rules prompted by the Union's expansion. If the question is not settled soon inside the EU, "they will have to assume the responsibility for the political failure of enlargement", Theodore Pangalos, the Greek Minister for European Affairs, said. Britain and Spain oppose change in the size of minority which can block EU laws.

If no deal is in sight, a tight timetable for having the accession treaty ratified in all states and the European Parliament during the next ten months will be ruined. The European Parliament says a final deal must be ready by March 10 if its members are to vote on the terms before they disperse for June's elections to the Parliament.



French hunters taking part in a weekend protest in Bordeaux over new European regulations that aim to shorten the country's hunting season by two months

## Commission denies protecting Delors

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission denied allegations yesterday that it had suppressed an internal report calling for the end of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Officials were accused at the weekend of trying to protect Jacques Delors, the outgoing Commission president, from provoking the anger of the powerful French farming lobby in the run-up to his as yet undeclared campaign to become the next President of France.

The report, written by a team of agriculture academics from across the EC, said that the use of EC funds to support farm prices was inefficient and should be replaced by direct government income support to farmers. Although it is unclear whether

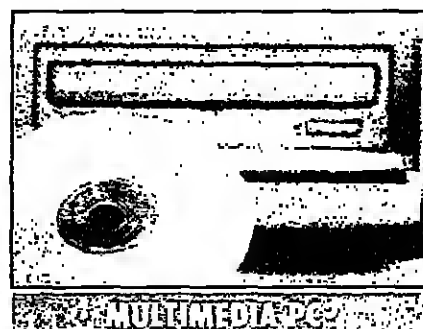
Europe's farmers would necessarily be worse off under such a system, they almost always oppose any change to subsidy levels.

A senior Commission agricultural official said he did not know of the report. However, others said EC Agricultural Policy for the 21st Century had been funded by the EC's economic affairs directorate, and was likely to stir debate over the policy.

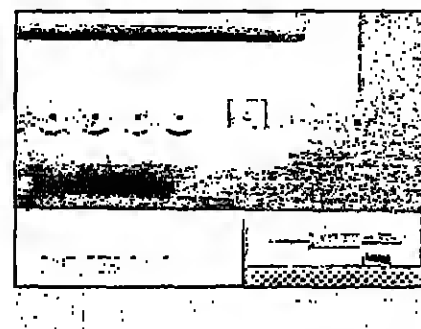
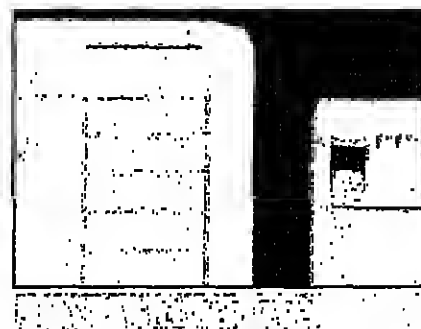
Officials said there was no question of the report being suppressed. One of its authors, Professor Kenneth Thomson, of Aberdeen University, said publication was simply "taking some time. We have been very busy over the last few months with GATT [the world trade agreement] and other things," he said.



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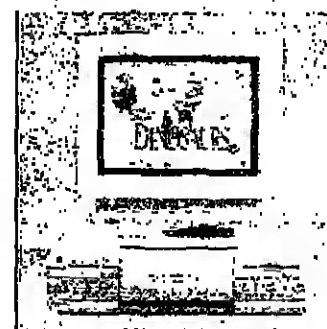
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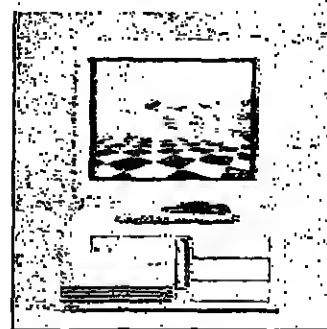
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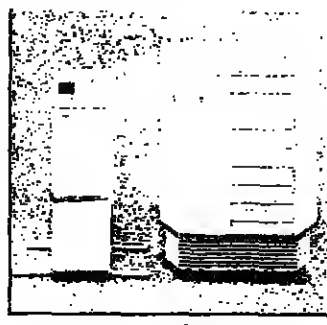
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Libby Purves meets a remarkable woman whose courage has kept her in the headlines for eight years

# Why I must never forget

The brutal assault on Jill Saward would have broken the spirit of many women — but now she is using her trauma to help other victims

## FIEND RAPES VICAR'S DAUGHTER

Jill Saward's ordeal as reported in *The Sun*

**S**prawled on a bean-bag in a tiny living-room on a West Country housing estate, a young couple are arguing about the ordination of women. She, a canon's daughter, is against it. "I suppose it's about the idea of headship," she says, theologically referring to Ephesians 5:23. But her husband, Gavin Drake, is in favour. "Anyway," he says fondly, "this thing about man being head of the wife doesn't work when I try it." And he pads off to make coffee.

They are, on the face of it, two nice, ordinary young people. They met at a Christian arts festival, when he asked her whether she was a television presenter because he was sure he knew her face.

But the reason he knew it was that this is Jill Saward: the 1986 Ealing vicarage rape victim, who four years later became the first to throw off the cloak of legal anonymity and write a stark account of the crime and her ensuing trauma and recovery. He knew her face from several hundred newspaper reports. After the rape it was printed, in defiance of anonymity, with only a thin line over her eyes in *The Sun*; four years later it was everywhere — including *The Sun*, to which she sold her book. Challenged on this at a House of Commons select committee on privacy law, she replied tranquilly: "Well, they used me, so I've used them." When Gavin realised who she was he was not deterred: they married, and expect their first child in July.

Jill Saward is now a reservedly friendly woman of 29, with a broad, calm, thoughtful face; the only evidence of her celebrity is her blasé attitude to our photographer. She poses almost absent-mindedly: if you live so long in the press, you learn to use it, and today she has a use for us. At the weekend she launched HURT (Help Untwist Rape

Trauma), a charity backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Once it has raised its first £150,000, it will open with her as director.

She will speak, help to train police officers — as she already does — and lobby MPs about the treatment of rape victims. "We want video identity parades. We want victims properly prepared for court appearances, and not treated as an irrelevance and told nothing. For most of the 11 months before my case I didn't even know their names."

HURT will also run an all-night telephone helpline. "Night is the time victims can't sleep, or feel afraid. It's also a time when they have the privacy to talk. If you call Rape Crisis you might get an answerphone. If you ring Samaritans, the person might not be trained in rape."

She is uncompromising in her view that kindly common sense is not enough: to listen properly to rape victims you need personal experience or careful training. "For instance, there was one woman who had been seeing a counsellor for two years and asked to meet me. One of the first things I asked was whether buggery had occurred. For me, that was the hardest thing to come to terms with. I still have physical problems, bleeding."

**H**er direct gaze challenges me and the male photographer in the background to accept her frankness. "This woman said that nobody had ever asked her that, and she was ashamed to mention it. You do feel ashamed. You need someone to understand that it wasn't your fault, and about stages you go through. When I talk to victims, I tell them there isn't any fairytale happy ending. But they can look at me: I remember the pain, but it doesn't hurt to talk now."



Face of courage: Jill Saward says "I tell victims there isn't any fairytale happy ending. But they can look at me: I remember the pain, but it doesn't hurt to talk about it now"

She is also adamant that HURT is not feminist. Much rape counselling, in her view, suffers from an aggressive sub-text that all men are rapists. "You can't be helped by people who are anti-men. Suppose you're married, or want to be? We're here for families, too, and male victims. Most men are OK. The first person I wanted to see afterwards was a man."

As she says this, it is impossible not to remember that aged 21, a virgin just multiply raped and abused, she walked downstairs and before there was anybody to comfort her, had to ring the police and untie her injured father and her boyfriend, while with iron self-control, she prevented herself from rinsing her bloodied mouth or using the lavatory because of the forensic evidence.

Her calm at that time was legendary, and led Judge Leonard to his famous gaffe about her trauma being "not so great": but she paid the price later. Looking back, she evokes the violent, lonely, unhappiness of the aftermath.

Her relationship with her father, now very close, became "appalling. I couldn't talk to him. I had to come to terms with the realisation that he didn't protect me. It took time to accept that he couldn't have. But he and David — the two who could have protected me the most — she looks bleak, then smiles. "No, there was nothing they could have done. It's naïve to see men as protectors."

With solid sense, she reasoned herself back into affection for Canon Saward; but her relationship with her boyfriend collapsed. She moved away, disguised her identity, contemplated suicide, and married her first husband, Gary, for the wrong reasons. I tell other people they mustn't, but oh, you long so much for someone to say "I love you" that you jump in without thinking.

Gary left her after three years of marriage, and again, the press closed in. "To be honest, I felt responsible. People seemed to need the happy ending. I want to republish the book now with

four new chapters to put this into perspective. My marriage wasn't doomed by the rape, but the rape was the reason I married the wrong man."

So she co-operated, talked, and continued joining in TV debates with startling frankness, to the protective Gavin's despair. "She's a godsend to producers. They know she'll say sensible things and won't go to pieces. I tell her not to

answer some questions, and we practise saying: No Comment. Then they ask her, and she comes straight out."

"Well, I like being straight with people," Jill says. "It's the Northern bit in me. And I do have a responsibility. I'm in a unique position, a well-recognised rape victim, not ashamed to show my face." "Don't think," Gavin says, "that we make any money out

of it. It ends up costing more than the expenses." Part of the function of her new role at HURT is to rationalise what has effectively become a career and a defence mechanism of exhibitionism. "She minds these a lot."

"People do complain that they're hearing my story for the tenth time, but it's always new to someone. Or it becomes relevant. If it's a charity, it looks less like an ego trip. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life at 21. This is the life I got. I take things as they come."

Her calm is such that you have to remember that even now, her address is secret for fear of at least one of her now freed rapists, who threatened her from prison. Four months pregnant, she could well be excused for seeking domestic anonymity. The newspaper money, about which she is equally frank, is long gone. "I did make a lot, but I haven't lived an extravagant life — except buying things for my ex-husband, and supporting him for nine months of not working. Now, as you notice,

we can't afford any chairs."

She is on the bean-bag, I am sprawled on the floor. Gavin, five years younger, is just starting to carve out a practice as a stringer for national newspapers. His profession is a source of some merriment between the two: Jill Saward now lives with one of the few tabloid reporters who has never written a word about her. "Look at me," says Gavin. "I'd love to be doing what you are right now. I'm living with this really good story, and I'm too close to do it!"

About the coming baby, Jill feels a cautiously welcoming apprehension. "I am very reluctant to take ultimate responsibilities. That's why I don't drive, and why I trained as a nursery nurse but never worked as one. I don't look forward to the birth. I'm not into pain." "She's had enough for a lifetime," Gavin says. "No," rebukes Jill. "Not physical pain, anyway. It's just that I don't like it."

HURT Appeal, 6 Amen Court, London EC4M 7BU.



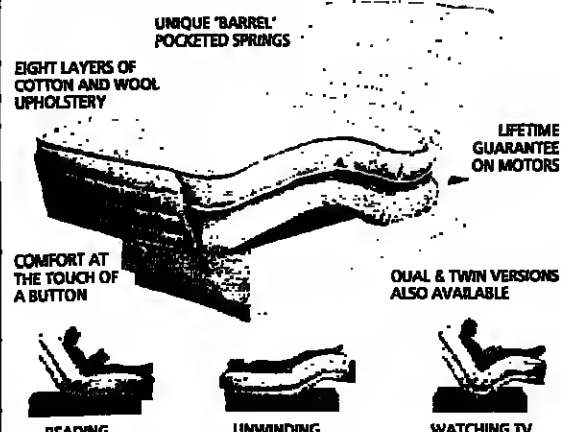
A new life: Jill with her husband Gavin

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## A toast to the great tunnel visionaries

Simon Jenkins finds the entente agreeably cordiale at a subaquatic celebration

**I** love eccentric parties. In 1827 Marc Brunel gave a gaslit banquet under the Thames for the 130 workers on his beauteous Rotherhithe tunnel. He wanted to make peace with them for returning from a strike. As he toasted the king, his workers banged their picks and shovels, toasted "our tools" and

end, supposedly "les Shuttles" though these were ominously "not ready". In the van were the two Prime Ministers who had signed the tunnel treaty, Lady Thatcher and Pierre Mauroy. Never can the Stygian world of tunnel engineering have staged such an occasion.

The diplomacy of supply was perfectly symmetrical. The food was French. The waiters were British. The lavatories were French. The security guards were French. The hostesses' uniforms were British. Three British Ambassadors to France were in attendance and three French Ambassadors to Britain. The French arrived by TGV and were two hours late. The British came by Network SouthEast and were on time. The British were politely told the French were to blame. The French guests were seated at the French end. The British sat at the British end. There beneath the sea, Anglo-French sensibilities crossed épées for the umpteenth time. The outcome was a draw. Both sides were delighted.

Lady Thatcher, I have to report, stole the show from Monsieur Mauroy. The French side gave her a clock shaped like a tunnelling machine. The British gave M. Mauroy a medal. He greeted the occasion with pleasantries. She was true to form. She



The food was French. The musicians were British. The waiters were French. The lavatories were British...

said that she had fought for projects such as this when all around were sceptical. (Lady Thatcher is nothing if not a revisionist.) Here stood the majestic tunnel as a "great boost to the morale of both our nations" — then the knife flashed — "at a time when we both need that boost". On the subject of boosts, she said, the tunnel was "a greater boost than have been signed in recent years". But if the British had Lady Thatcher, the French had food. Serving 700 hot meals from a freight shuttle miles under the sea would have taxed the ingenuity of a Brunel. Scallops "de la Manche" were followed by an exquisite seafood casserole, cooked inside a papillote (paper bag) on which was printed the Eurotunnel logo. It must have been heated by long-distance laser. Next the Paris chefs chanced a diplomatic incident with three French cheeses and just two English

ones. A Sancerré was followed by a so far unknown "1987/88" bordeaux. "Chateau les Hauts de Smith" (was this a joke?) and by champagne "cuvée de l'inauguration". Dessert was a "wépion aux larmes de chocolate". What a wépion is and whose tears required this subaquatic memorial were not explained. But in a tremendous coup de théâtre, the lights dimmed, the string quartet fled and, to the triumphant march from *Aida*, eight French pastrycooks carried out of the darkness a vast four-deck cake. I dared to remark to a French guest that Verdi's opera was written to inaugurate another European engineering triumph, the Suez Canal. I had chosen the wrong banker. "Yes," he said grimly. "The canal went bankrupt, then you stole it from us." There is no end to the chauvinism of civil engineering.

I suppose we should not be surprised, given the glory of such creations. The Channel tunnel is, after the moon landing, the most astonishing engineering feat of my lifetime. Such projects have two sets of heroes. There are the civil engineers. Their task is straightforward, to dig a big hole. But as Marc Brunel (a Frenchman) and his son Isambard Kingdom were painfully aware, honours should also go to the engineers of money, the men in grey suits, the bankers and lobbyists, the managers and trouble-shooters: to all who said yes when every obstacle in the way said no. As for using the tunnel, that may require a different celebration. It still awaits "commissioning". Brunel needed 15 years after his banquet to bring his project to fruition in 1843. His tunnel never made a penny and was given over to a flea market, whores and thieves. It was finally sold to a railway company — plague the thought. But Brunel knew a good excuse for a party. So do we.



With eclecticism the key word,  
London Fashion Week caused a stir

# The best of British

**T**he talent is extraordinary," said hairdresser Vidal Sassoon during London Fashion Week. Sassoon, whose company sponsored the event, was excited by what he saw. "The ideas are so eclectic. It's very similar to what we had going three decades ago."

Sassoon was right to be impressed. This season's autumn/winter previews saw the strongest showing by our designers for many years. Not since the early 1980s have so many names vied for attention. The schedule, which ran for four days at the end of last week, was packed with shows. Britain has always been seen by the rest of the world as a place overflowing with talent. "Here are the streets where ideas come from," Sassoon noted. "Not Paris or Milan."

Rumours that something is happening in London once again prompted the heavyweights of the international fashion press to come and see for themselves.

Across the capital designers put on shows which proved that they are still a force to be reckoned with.

Caroline Charles opened the proceedings with models in black striped see-through T-shirts, black lace mini-skirts and lots of black leather. It is not, perhaps, a look associated with the *soignée* designer, but, as the society ladies, clad in funky black leather jeans, in the front row at Tomasz Starzewski proved, it is one which is becoming as classic as a Chanel handbag.

Black dominated Charles's show but looked best as a little dress which was a short, sassy version of a kaftan.



SONJA NUTALL: Her designs have an unpretentious charm



Fashion  
IAIN R. WEBB

This dark mood prevailed, and in the winter, shops will be filled with black, as was the catwalk of Sonja Nutall. Her collection featured little else, apart from a hint of silver-grey and an outfit or two in ivory (the other favourite of all the designers). Nutall has already gained a following in the industry. Her designs are naive and unsophisticated, which in no way negates their effect. Indeed, their charm lies in this unpretentious look. Little mohair knits, open-backed A-line shifts, and the plainest of trouser suits were simply marvellous. A velvet maxi-length coat embellished with a leaf-embossed print (by fabric designer Nigel Atkinson) was a triumph of teamwork.

Like the curate's egg, the designers who made up the New Generation shows were good in parts. Sonnenberg Mulligan, Copperwheel Blundell, and Xavier Foley lived up to my great expectations, continuing their favoured silhouettes in a mixture of black, grey, navy, and brown, with touches of metallics and pastels. The more I see of this trio of duos the more I am reminded of their debt to the work of one of the great ladies of British fashion, Jean Muir. Sadly, Miss Muir did not show during London Fashion Week.

Paul Frith also showed under the New Generation banner. His little, and long, black dresses still look effective.

One of the best surprises of the week was the evening wear of Benny Ong. This featured satin and suede cut in chocolate, both milk and dark varieties. Satin A-line mini-skirts worn with fitted suede button-back T-shirts were modern, while a little shift dress with a turned-up hem was inspired.

Roland Klein and Edina Ronay both showed strong, solid collections, using black and ivory to great effect. Klein mixed the shades on striped daywear, while Ronay showed black on black, opaque and sheer, next to creamy knits. For evening, Klein's hemlines



BETTY JACKSON: Odd layers and lengths work well

rose and fell on the same dress, while Ronay offered either or.

Ally Capellino and Paul Costelloe were more upbeat than usual. Both mixed in to the mood, while maintaining their strong personal signatures. Bella Freud and Helen Storey did likewise, while providing the most colourful collections of the week.

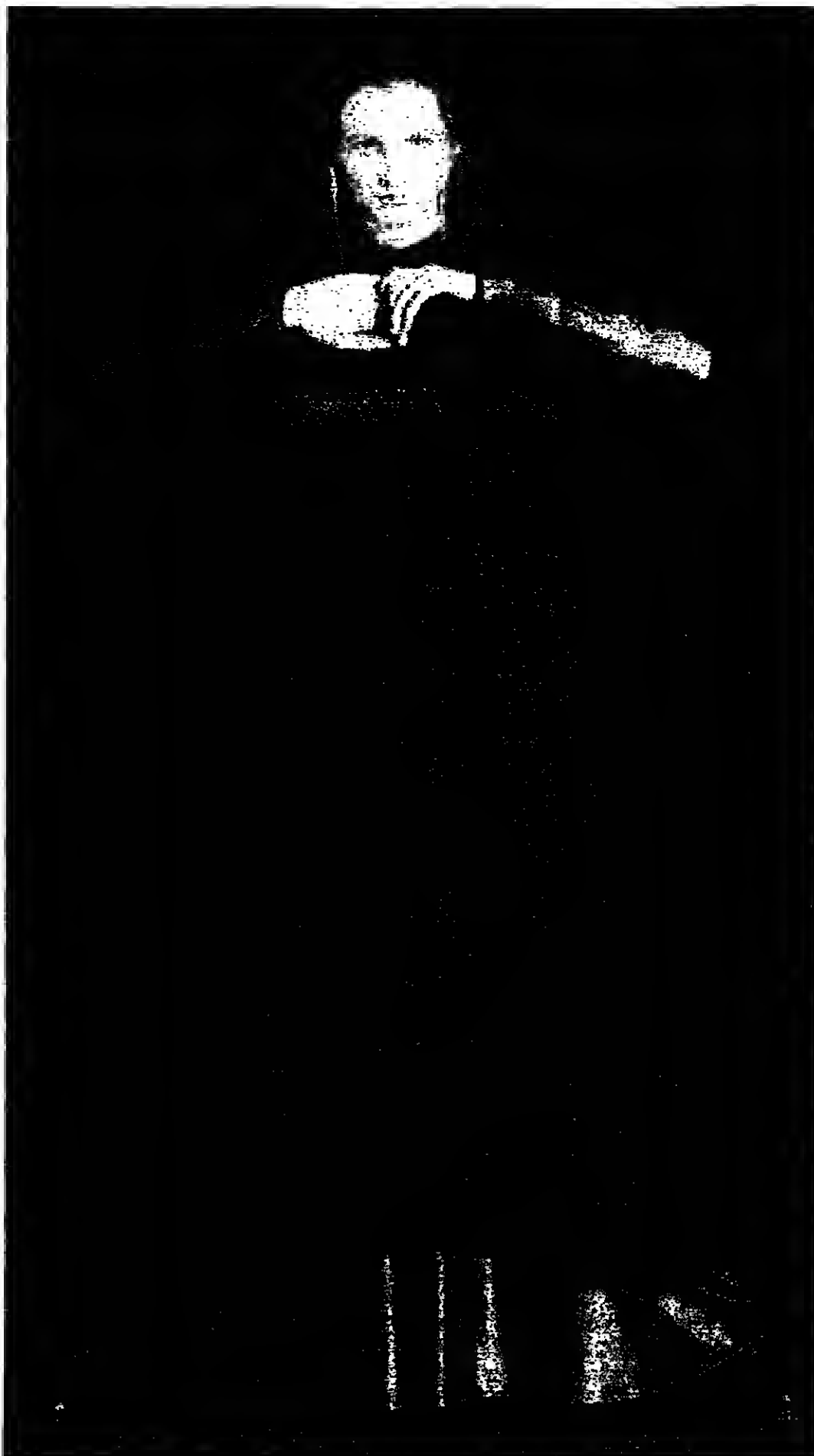
Sadly, there were disappointments, too. Owen Gaster played one idea — short, short skirts and rubber

sneakers — for all it was worth, which, I'm afraid, was not much. Amanda Wakeley usually designs exceptionally easy-looking clothes. The understated pieces in her collection were great: the canary yellow sheepskin and suede brassiere was not.

However, the week belonged to three designers: Abe Hamilton, Betty Jackson and, Designer of the Year, John Rocha.

Hamilton is an artist. His

Photographs by MARTYN THOMPSON  
Make-up: Sarah Fyfe; Hair: Howard Barr



JOHN ROCHA: unexpected combinations of fabrics from the Designer of the Year; ROLAND KLEIN: Mixing shades on his daywear



## HOTLINE

GLAMOROUS make-up made a return at the autumn/winter 1994 fashion shows. Abe Hamilton showed faces with dark sultry eyes, framed by neat inky brows, above wine-stained lips. John Rocha's models had heavy pink eyeshadow, worn to stunning effect against pale, iridescent skin. Fingernails also got the full treatment: silver, bright pink and wine were most popular.

● THIS week sees the relaunch of the men's magazine *International Collections*. Crammed with style tips, profiles and more than 40 pages of menswear, IC is available from all major newsagents priced at £2.25.

● HERDING the fashion press from show to show is no mean feat. The British Fashion Council lays on transport in the form of a Harrods bus. Spacious and a distinctive green, the coach is a welcome sight after yet another capacity-packed showroom. A clever exercise in publicity.

● THE trade paper *Fashion Weekly* and *Hyper*, the high street store, gave a party last Friday to raise money for AIDS charities, with guests donating £1 per sponsored drink. The star-studded guest list included Boy George, Björk and Bad Boys Inc.

RACHEL COLLINS

*Middlemarch*-inspired collection of bias-cut, long skirts and Empire-line dresses in mid-night blue, lilac, and smoky tones looked perfectly charming.

Jackson and Rocha, meanwhile, used unexpected combinations of fabrics to great effect. Odd layers and lengths looked right. Both made much of a high bustline — this is where you will wear your belt come winter.

With their truly individual collections, Jackson and Rocha proved that British fashion is a wonderful melting pot mix — more so this season than ever before.

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THE TIMES

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## Matthew Parris



■ When you doubt a Brussels sprout, you gain the freedom to question other non-essentials of the 20th century

A cucumber should be well sliced, and dressed with pepper and vinegar, and then thrown out, as good for nothing." Thus wrote Dr Johnson.

Preparing supper with friends staying this weekend in Derbyshire, I suggested we might have Brussels sprouts. Not that I like them. My indifference to Brussels sprouts is prodigious. One eats them if they're there, but hardly misses them if they're not. When has one ever encountered a meal of which one has said: "There's just one thing lacking in this meal. This would be... if only there were Brussels sprouts."

I mentioned this. "Oh," piped up someone, "but that's exactly how I've always felt about sprouts. I assume it's other people who like them."

"Not me," volunteered another, "I feel completely neutral about sprouts. I only ever have them for Mary's sake."

"Well, I only ever have them for you!" said Mary. "I just find sprouts boring. But you always eat them. You even have second helpings."

"So do you, silly. Sprouts leave me cold. I finish them because I don't like waste."

We were eight. It was the work of a moment to establish that not one of us cared tuppence for sprouts, or would ever have felt it necessary to invent them if they had not existed. None of us would have planted, harvested, prepared or cooked a sprout in our lives were it not for the fact that we assumed other people did like the atrocious vegetable.

The discovery set the subject for discussion for much of the remaining evening.

We found the same was true of the later works of Stephen Sondheim. Nobody had liked *Sunday in the Park With George*, but some of us had kept quiet about this because the show had met such critical acclaim. "All those desperately clever lyrics that are too quick to get, no proper rhythm, and no real tunes," was the general feeling. All but one of us agreed that there was something horribly gutless and mercenary about Sondheim. We resolved to be braver in the future about saying so, and never to go to another Sondheim musical.

Artistic Japanese arrangements of pieces of wood, stones and blossom met the same reaction. In our new-found mood of honesty each of us confessed that those spare, minimalist compositions with twigs left us quite cold.

"Thank goodness I've been able to admit it at last," said Mary. "For years I've thought it was I who was missing something, and

'It was the work of a moment to establish that not one of us cared tuppence for sprouts'

"Wedding receptions." "Amoretti." "Stately homes." "Sex after marriage." "The Mona Lisa." "Lyra." "Chamber music."

It was amazing how much unanimity there was. It seems that each age and fashion bequeaths to the next a jumble of flotsam which, because nobody actively dislikes it, we never get round to identifying and clearing away.

Nobody wishes to hurt the feelings of others by railing against something which, after all, they do not feel strongly about, and which others may well care for. In a gentlemen's club, unwanted recruits can be anonymously blackballed. But how shall we blackball fairy cakes?

It strikes me that we are moving into an age when this will become possible. Within a decade television viewers will be able to register opinions instantaneously by pressing buttons. This will be a risk-free way of finding out each other's real tastes.

Think of the possibilities! In a single generation we could sweep away the impedimenta of a millennium. Breadsticks? Kiwi fruit! The Mona Lisa? Sex after marriage? Chamber music? Gone, all gone!

I want to host the television show which first establishes that nobody, nobody in Britain has ever liked, likes now, or ever expects to like, Brussels sprouts.

Michael Howard argues that local communities must take more power over their own affairs

## A volunteer army awaiting the call

Markets can never be taken for granted. If they are to work well, constant work is needed to help keep them free. The key to this is competition. Government has a responsibility to resist anti-competitive monopolies or near monopolies and ensure that markets remain strong enough to work their magic.

But markets are there to serve man, not man to serve markets. There are public goods and collective wants which markets cannot satisfy, defence being the oldest example. People of all political beliefs recognise this, but differ as to how these collective wants can best be satisfied.

In the 1990s, more than ever, we have an opportunity to bring together our belief in markets and our belief in community. Conservatives believe in a limited State, but will do nothing to weaken the ties that bind us as a nation. Edmund Burke expressed this famously: "To be attached to the subdivision, to love the little platoon we belong to in society, is the first principle (the germ as it were) of public affection."

The smallest and most important platoon is of course the family. Conservatives have always cherished the importance of the family but cannot be blind to social change. People living alone now account for a quarter of all households and this trend is likely to increase. The extended family no longer provides the care and concern it once did.

In these circumstances the impor-

ance of neighbourhood is bound to grow. The British are famous for their reserve and regard for privacy. This has its advantages. But the reverse of the coin is to be found in the stories of old people left lonely and isolated. We need to do what we can to recreate the sense of obligation through the generations. We also need to be aware of our duties as good neighbours.

But it is a huge mistake to assume that these obligations and duties can be fulfilled only by involving the coercive apparatus of the State. "Communities" built on collectivism are characterised by alienation, atomism, lack of confidence and crime. The strongest communities exist where voluntary collective action is most apparent. In rolling back the State we have rolled forward the scope for voluntary local collective action. We have given individuals far more scope for getting involved.

At local level involvement in schools, playgroups and environmental societies is natural and practical. With initiatives like self-governing schools and enhanced

powers for school governors we have made involvement easier too. Over the past 15 years we have enormously expanded the role of housing associations and given council tenants the right to set up co-operatives.

Our opponents mistakenly equate local communities with local authorities. Councils have an important job to do in delivering local services. But in devolving significant power down to communities, our intention has not been simply to recreate national government at local level.

How do we ensure that the little platoons thrive and recruit new foot soldiers? As more people retire earlier and live longer there is potentially an array of volunteers available to help others, while at the same time helping themselves to lead active and fulfilling lives. In this, if not in other areas, Government's role is to act as a persuader. To make voluntary action grow we need to make sure that people have the information and encouragement they need. In this way, Government can be a catalyst in unleashing volunteer power.

How should this be done? First,

when confronted with a policy issue, the Government must think first about the voluntary sector. The Prime Minister and John Patten have said they would like to see nursery provision extended for children before they go to school. But there is no reason why this should need uniform provision by the taxpayer.

Second, the Government should think carefully about how it can promote voluntary activity through its own operations. There is much we can do to improve the way in which we provide funds to public bodies or to the voluntary sector. Instead of giving direct grants, we should establish a pool of money and ask those concerned to bid for that money by putting forward their own proposals and inviting others to join them.

Third, the Government has a role in encouraging new ideas. The growth and success of Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent example. There are now 115,000 schemes covering five million households. In some areas, where police are stretched, volunteers have banded together to patrol. I visited just such a

scheme in Sandwich only recently. By quietly patrolling the streets, local residents have cut the local burglary rate significantly. And they have extended their activities to things like helping the elderly to visit friends. When I praised the Sandwich scheme in the Commons, I was jeered by Labour MPs. In that telling moment they revealed their utter contempt for letting people take responsible action to safeguard and improve their own communities. That instinctive reaction stripped naked the pretences of the Opposition.

We should encourage other examples of the Neighbourhood Watch principle. Business and farmers have already set up Farm Watch and Business Watch to share information and keep an eye out for suspicious activities. As Mr Patten has said, Truancy Watch, first established in Staffordshire, is also a development that we should encourage.

Limiting the power and extent of the State, but strengthening the little platoons, should be the Tory way. If we are truly to be One Nation, we must strengthen those bonds that link us. It is precisely because of their voluntary nature that these kinds of bond are so important. They are the essential building blocks for the One Nation in which Disraeli himself so passionately believed.

This is an edited version of the Disraeli lecture which the Home Secretary will give this evening to the St Stephen's Club.

## History as heartless bunk

Can pupils warm to their studies of the past without the Great Fire of London?

The *Sunday Telegraph* has been shown a copy of the revised curriculum for history which has been drawn up by a group advising the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. A number of events have been dropped. Out goes Guy Fawkes, out goes the Fire of London, out goes the Great Plague, out goes the King James Bible. According to Jonathan Petre, the education correspondent, "the role of the Stuart monarchs has been telescoped", which seems rather unfair, and a section on modern British democracy has been dropped. I am not sure what modern British democracy might consist of. The Chartists seem modern to me, but I do not suppose they do to anyone else. Perhaps modern British democracy is a mixture of the Pankhursts and the rise of the Labour Party.

"Among sections that have been made optional are the Roman Empire, and exploration and encounters 1450-1550, though material on Drake and Raleigh is included under the Tudors. References to Nelson and Wellington are included, but only in optional material." One can imagine the outgoing Bishop of Durham applying this method to the history of Christianity. References to the Virgin Birth have been omitted. The Crucifixion is included under Pontius Pilate, but references to the Resurrection only appear as optional.

As a journalist, I regret this group's apparent prejudice against the best stories. If the Romans are optional, I suppose Boudicca has gone, since she is mainly famous for fighting against them. Of course, like Hitler and — if one believes the Monument — the Papists in 1666, she burnt London. Indeed she is the only person who can be said to have burnt London for purely patriotic motives. Even by the time that I was at school King Arthur had vanished from English history, though there seems no reason to doubt that such a chieftain existed, even if he never had a round table.

I suppose that Alfred and the cakes is no longer allowed, nor King Henry I, who never smiled again after the loss of his son and heir in the



White Ship. Perhaps Richard Coeur de Lion is still allowed his friendship with Blondie, since that is the only presumptively gay relationship on which Victorian historians looked with favour. They did not think much of Edward II and Gaveston. But what are we to make of bad King John, pulling out the teeth of his creditors, murdering his nephew, signing Magna Carta, losing the crown jewels in the Wash and dying of a surfeit of lampreys. It is one good story after another, but they are not what one might regard as serious history. Children remember the same sort of event in history that they would remember if they saw it on television.

The great originators of English journalism, Daniel Defoe, who invented almost all the techniques of our craft, from personalisation to leading articles, saw that the plague year was the perfect subject for a history that people would want to read. The Great Plague of London was indeed a dramatic event. If the drama of history is left out, and the stories are not told, schoolchildren will grow up with nothing specific and exciting in their memories. No doubt serious and scholarly historians will be more interested in the underlying economic and social

causes of the events they describe. But the story of Henry II sending his knights to kill Thomas à Becket in Canterbury Cathedral will remain vivid in their minds long after a thoughtful tutorial on Church-State relations in early medieval England has faded completely.

The English are an active people

William Rees-Mogg

and English history is very active. Three Germanic tribes came and pushed the previous wave of Celtic conquerors back into Wales and the far west. In their turn they were invaded, half successfully by the Danes and entirely successfully by the Normans. They spent the rest of the medieval period, under this Norman leadership, trying to conquer France. They came quite close to succeeding. When that eventually failed they began the long process of building an empire, which lasted — as Nostradamus had said that it

would — for 300 years. Then in a few years after the Second World War they quickly packed it all in, with an exemplary minimum of fuss. In the course of building their empire they were threatened by four great European powers, by Philip II of Spain, by Louis XIV, by Napoleon, and by Hitler. They defeated all of them, mainly by creating coalitions against them, and they also joined in a successful coalition against Soviet Communism.

Viewed simply as a tribal story, as a sort of continuation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, this is all very exciting. What the English created became the largest empire that has ever been known, and provided the main structure from which the modern world has been developed. There have been many empires, but none has had a greater world impact than the British, not even the Roman, not even the Chinese. Yet empires are created step by step, even by event, person by person. The Pilgrim Fathers had very different motives from the East India Company — General Gordon's motives were quite different again — but all three formed part of the process by which English power was extended around the world.

It was done by men of action: in essence, though we are not comfortable with that fact, it was done by war. William the Conqueror has rightly been regarded as the key figure in the whole process; indeed the British Empire, though it was largely made by the descendants of the Anglo-Saxons, with some help from the Scots, always had this extraordinary Norman element in it, with Norman efficiency and Norman ruthlessness. Now that the Empire is finished, the gentler aspects of our British nature have naturally been emphasised. But the Empire is what makes the history of Britain important, and it was not created by our tolerance or sense of fair play, but by the determination of our leaders and the fighting quality of our soldiers and sailors.

If we take the good stories out of the history, we take the blood out of it as well. What could be more misleading than to teach English history with an optional Waterloo and an optional Trafalgar? If we had not been so good at fighting, when it came to the point, we should have become part of the Spanish Empire or the French, have had a revolutionary government imposed on us by Napoleon, have been defeated in both world wars, and would never have won India, which would have become part of the French Empire, as would Canada, after Wolfe had failed to scale the heights of Quebec.

The stories tend therefore to tell the truth. Because they are stories of action, they are the folk memory of the decisive events that made up the extraordinary history of the island which became an empire. Because the human mind is excited by such dramatic actions, the stories are memorable. There is therefore a link between what can be taught and what should be taught. It would be comforting to think that our empire, uniquely in the world, was created without bloodshed. But in fact it was the battles that made it possible.

That does not mean that empires are only interesting when they are being built, or that battles are the only proper subject matter of history. What mattered most about the British Empire was not doubt the use we made of it, of good and bad. How did we rule those nations in peace, whose territory we had conquered in war? Yet it is wrong to try to de-emphasise the way in which they were won. To do so might well rid us of the memory of crimes we would rather forget. But it would also de-emphasise the courage and self-sacrifice which are among the most admirable qualities of our history.



## Squared roots

UNDERSTANDABLY miffed at the media's scepticism about our Prime Minister's American roots, Terry Major-Ball is intent on digging up documentary proof of the Pittsburgh connection.

The Prime Minister must, perforce, restrict his nostalgic visit to Pennsylvania this week. But his elder brother wants to sour the state for information on their father's boyhood and grandfather's work building blast furnaces. To finance the trip, Major-Ball must first publish his book, part autobiographical, part family history. "If the book sells, I'd love to spend the money digging around the area," he says.

Sadly, most of the memora-

bilia from the Pittsburgh era, together with the trapeze artist's costumes belonging to their father, were kept in a black trunk which was lost in storage when the family moved from their bungalow in Worcester Park to Brixton in the 1950s.

But the brothers recall their father Tom's tales. "When we were sitting on his knee, he'd tell us these stories of his boyhood of playing baseball — he used to pitch against a tree — and cutting up sarsaparilla roots..."

### Deserting rats

THE QUEEN has been called upon to eat many exotic dishes in the line of duty. In Peking's

Great Hall of the People she was required to polish off a dish of sea slugs during her historic visit to China in 1986.

But, as HMS Britannia sailed out of Belize on Friday, the royal entourage was relieved to report that Her Majesty had been spared one ordeal. On her last visit to Belize in 1985, a dish called roasted gibbon was served at the Government House banquet. Only later was she informed by her equestrian that the creature is a rodent — giving rise, inevitably, to the headline back home: "Queen Eats Rat".

At last week's dinner, seated at the same table, Her Majesty's plate was occupied by a stuffed chicken. The Duke of Edinburgh, however, renewed his acquaintance with a gibbon. He was shown a live specimen while visiting the local zoo.

### End of the line

MOTHER BROWN will be doing fewer knees-ups if the capital's transport planners have their way. When marking out the line across London of Crossrail, the project's managers failed to note it would spell the end of the East End's

### Hard cheese at soft soap

THE DEATH of Mark Hebdon shocked not only those who tune in regularly to *The Archers*. Last month, BBC commissioners informed Hebdon's alter ego, Richard Derrington, that he must not line up alongside fellow Ambridge villagers for the regular all-cast photograph. When he queried the order, they broke the news that he was to be written out in a car crash. His grieving neighbours vowed revenge.

Just as the photographer's



Greene and Coward support Derrington

finger descended, a plucky Sara Coward, better known to listeners as Caroline Bone (badly injured in the crash — and just when she was about to marry that wet vicar-cum-vet), rebelled.

though Labour's former leader, Michael Foot, who celebrated his 80th birthday at the theatre last July, is a great fan. Instead he is looking to the Other Place for common sense. "We may not get many Lords down Brick Lane, but I think there are quite a few who will lend their support."

● Royal Doulton may be taking the pursuit of a classless society a step too far. Since becoming independent last De-

cember, the world-revered maker of fine porcelain has broadened its range. The latest figurine hot from the kiln, a £105 figurine described as "the picture of Victorian pretentiousness", is named Sharon. "It's been a really popular name for the last 25 years," explains Ann Linscott, Doulton's corporate communications director. "And we like to link popular names to our figures because people give them as presents. Sharon's got a bad

press, so we're delighted to give a graceful tribute to the Sharons of the world." Obviously a must for any Essex collector's mantelpiece.

### Lamont's law

IF JOHN MAJOR believes Norman Lamont has finished taking potshots at his Government's policies, he may soon be disappointed. After well-publicised forays into the economy and Northern Ireland, the former Chancellor now has his eyes on Bosnia.

Lamont will address a conference in Milan on March 12, organised by the Italian financial newspaper *Il Sole*, on "geo-political European issues", of which Bosnia is the most pressing. The conference also gives him the chance to renew his acquaintance with the former German Foreign Secretary, Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Last time they met, during the tortuous Maastricht negotiations, Genscher's aides recall that Lamont did not always appear to be giving his full attention to the talks. But, at one point, our bird-watching

Chancellor sprang to life. Pointing to the window, he swore an extremely rare Black Redstart had just flown by. Genscher was reported as being somewhat consoled by this proof of British eccentricity.

### Opera north

PADDY ASHDOWN is not the only Liberal Democrat MP who relishes life outside the hothouse atmosphere of Westminster. As the party leader publishes his book *Beyond Westminster* today, about his experiences living with "ordinary people", Robert MacLennan is also showing impressive versatility. Last night the party's home affairs and heritage spokesman tuned in to Radio 3's *Musica in Our Time* series to hear the Paragon Ensemble of Glasgow perform *The Lie*, an opera for which he wrote the libretto.

The one-time leader of the Social Democrats adapted the tragic tale of sexual repression and awakening from a short story by Isak Dinesen. A modest MacLennan concedes: "I am, as a Liberal Democrat, required to spread myself across many fields."





## JUST SAY NO

Major must resist calls for a federalist Euro-campaign

The European elections are likely to be judged a disaster for the Tories. The danger for John Major is that they will turn into a catastrophe, with all the repercussions that would have on his leadership. The party's manifesto has not yet been written but the unofficial campaign has begun — with signs that the result may be the worst of the two outcomes now facing the Prime Minister.

Last Thursday's party political broadcast put out a muddled message. Douglas Hurd praised the Tories for having taken "every single step towards greater co-operation within Europe" and castigated Labour for opposing them. Yet within seconds, he was boasting that Conservatives wanted "to keep Britain's right to make most decisions about our future here in Britain", while criticising the opposition parties for wanting to move towards a European superstate.

This was followed by a contribution from the leader of the Conservative MEPs, Sir Christopher Prout. It has since emerged that Sir Christopher, together with four of his colleagues, was at the meeting that unanimously endorsed the manifesto of the European People's Party, published on Friday. That centre-right grouping, to which the Tory MEPs are allied, wants to "advance resolutely towards European unification", and backs economic and monetary union and the social chapter. The manifesto includes support for a European constitution, which is anathema to Eurosceptics. Yesterday Sir Edward Heath urged Mr Major to accept the EPP manifesto: the first sign that those on the left, many of whom have no great sympathy for the Prime Minister, are likely to be as outspoken as the right in the forthcoming campaign.

The committee chaired by Douglas Hurd that is drawing up the Conservative manifesto is composed entirely of Euro-enthusiasts. Its members may well be influenced by the EPP's threat to break links with the Tory MEPs if they fail to support the EPP manifesto on all points except the single currency and the social chapter. But if the manifesto the committee produces suits the tastes of the MEPs and the Foreign Secretary, it will be quite out of tune with the

sympathies of most of the Tory Party, or Westminster and in the country.

The loudest cheers at last year's party conference came when ministers sounded a cautionary note about Europe. Britons have become increasingly sceptical and, given the Europhile enthusiasms of the opposition parties, the Conservatives are perfectly placed to take advantage of this mood. Much more than in 1989, there is room for a campaign that exploits justified anxieties about loss of sovereignty. Of course most voters, if they vote at all, will use the Euro-elections as a referendum on the Government. But a significant minority does care about Europe. Its support could make the difference for Mr Major between a bearable disaster and an unbearable catastrophe.

Party workers care too. The main challenge in June will be to persuade Tory supporters to turn out at all, and that is unlikely to happen if activists are given a manifesto with which they cannot agree. Their candidates are in a weak position. The MEPs have no personal following, and if they want the backing of their party, they must accept the leadership of the party leader. Their problems with the EPP should pale into insignificance before Mr Major's problems with the British electorate.

So the Prime Minister must insist that the manifesto reflects his views as set out in his *Economist* article of last autumn: that decision-making should be brought closer to the people; that the nation state is "here to stay"; that EMU has "all the quaintness of a rain dance and about the same potency"; that Britain will not rejoin the ERM "within the foreseeable future"; and that the EU should start to meet the "demand for a different kind of Europe".

When Lynda Chalker chaired the manifesto-writing committee for the 1989 Euro-elections and submitted a document that was far too credulous about the Community's intentions, Margaret Thatcher sent it back with great lines struck through it and "NO" writ large in the margins. If Mr Major, who has staked his future on these elections, wants to survive, he should be prepared to do just the same.

## ULSTER'S TRUE AGENDA

Sinn Fein's conference was never likely to deliver peace

Those who expected the Sinn Fein conference in Dublin to produce a ringing endorsement of the current peace initiative greatly underestimated the cunning of the Republican movement. Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, has been posturing as the embattled voice of reason within Sinn Fein, a modern Eamon de Valera trying to usher his comrades into legitimate politics. The British and Irish Governments, it has been suggested, should support Mr Adams to avert the alleged risks of a split within the movement, similar to the breakaway of the Provisionals from the Official IRA in 1970.

Yet it is in Mr Adams's interest to prolong the uncertainty and to foster an atmosphere of suspense. To respond definitively to the Anglo-Irish declaration would be to limit severely the options open to Sinn Fein. At present, the party is standing by its hypocritical "Armalite and ballot box" strategy, while basking in the unprecedented media interest in its deliberations. Mr Adams's indecision is quite intentional.

Anxious not to be seen as the saboteurs of the peace initiative, some of his colleagues yesterday adopted a speciously conciliatory tone. Martin McGuinness said that recent remarks by the British had been "intriguing and interesting" and that the difficulties involved were "not insurmountable". Yet there is nothing in Sinn Fein's own position to support this optimism. Mr McGuinness himself insisted yesterday that all parties — including the British Army — lay down their

arms as a prelude to peace talks. Mr Adams, meanwhile, rejected the Unionist veto enshrined in the Anglo-Irish declaration and repeated his call for the British Government to act as "persuaders" in the conflict.

There is little sign that Sinn Fein intends to join the peace process which John Major and Albert Reynolds, the Irish Taoiseach, launched in December. The British Government has foolishly refused to set a deadline for any response. It should now forge ahead with constitutional reform and the official inter-party talks regardless of Sinn Fein's reaction. Nearly a month has passed since Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, made the welcome announcement that Ulster was to have its own democratic assembly. It is vital that he publish details of that proposal sooner rather than later.

Unionist leaders should also be reviewing their strategy. James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionist Party, has stood loyally by Mr Major, deducing correctly that Unionists could not afford to be seen as wreckers of the peace process. But he must not confuse discretion with passivity. He must now make clear to the Prime Minister that the declaration alone is not enough; that the Protestant community expects a strong commitment to devolutionary reform; and that he can no longer take for granted the support of Unionist MPs. Sinn Fein's conference proved predictably inconclusive. It is time for Ulster's constitutional parties to reclaim the initiative from the men of violence and their supporters.

## THE ROAD TO ROME

Italian voters are hardly spoilt for choice

According to the script, next month's elections in Italy were supposed to usher in an era of political stability. It is not likely, however, that they will do so, as mercurial alliances are mooted and struck. The opportunistic horse-trading, traversing every known ideological barrier, has ceased only for the duration of the campaign, which started yesterday: the next round will begin after the elections are over.

With the Christian Democrat centre now too discredited to count as an independent electoral force, the elections have been portrayed somewhat simplistically as a face-off between the hard right, led by media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, and the unreconstructed left, led by Achille Occhetto. Both men have elected to lie with unsavoury bedfellows. Signor Berlusconi's Forza Italia has forged a pact with Umberto Bossi's separatist Northern League and the neo-fascist National Alliance of Gianfranco Fini. Signor Occhetto's Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) relies — albeit to a lesser extent — on the Refounded Communists, who would seek to pull Italy out of NATO.

But the leverage of Communist hardliners over the PDS is limited. It is hard, therefore, to accept Signor Berlusconi's contention that the PDS poses "a Communist threat to Italy's essence". While it may be hyperbolic to accuse him, as sections of the Italian press have done, of McCarthyism, he is certainly guilty of distortion. Signor Occhetto is,

today, a social democrat, no more Communist than Britain's John Smith. He has pledged to continue the policies of Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Italy's widely lauded caretaker Prime Minister, aimed at cutting the budget deficit and reforming public administration.

Signor Berlusconi's alliance with the neo-fascists, however, gives great cause for worry. The latter's xenophobia and irredentist claim to territory in Slovenia and Croatia hardly inspire confidence: and it is difficult to see them, with their muscular commitment to Italian unity, in protracted alliance with the Northern League. Both parties are far more influential in their coalition than the old Communists are on the left. And Signor Berlusconi himself is unconvincing. His main attraction is that he might succeed in keeping the Northern League and the National Alliance on a leash.

Opinion polls suggest that neither bloc will win an absolute majority: the Christian Democrat centre may yet hold the key to power. Crucial, too, will be the role of Signor Ciampi. There are clear signs that he would be willing to head a PDS minority government. And his stated unwillingness to work with Signor Berlusconi will have lost the latter much potential support among uncommitted voters. If the PDS were to win, but fall short of an absolute majority, a government with the body of Occhetto and the head of Ciampi would ensure a greater degree of stability than any other.

## A crucial date for the Scott enquiry

From Mr Jon Kimche

Sir, Last year the Government prepared a report — much under-rated at the time — on the working of the "central intelligence machinery" (details, October 2, 1993). The Prime Minister, John Major, explained that the report's purpose was to show the strength of the British system of intelligence-gathering and of its communication with ministers and officials.

Through the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), his foreword explained, "they are provided with assessments which provide an objective background to the discussion of policy." The body of the report explained that the JIC is required to provide "a weekly (my italics) survey on intelligence known colloquially as the Red Book". This contains assessments "for ministers and officials" (my italics) on a range of situations of current concern.

The JIC usually meets weekly. Its members are senior officials from the Foreign Office, the Defence Ministry, the Treasury and the heads of the intelligence agencies, the "Intelligence Co-ordinator" and other concerned officials. The chairman of the JIC has direct access to the Prime Minister. Its secretariat is located in Sir Robin Butler's Cabinet Office in Downing Street.

Thus, the critical Cabinet Committee meeting of July 19, 1990, over which the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, presided 15 days before Iraq invaded Kuwait, is particularly significant. It decided, as you reported on November 18, 1992, that in the light of prevailing conditions (my italics) it was proper to reinterpret the existing guidelines more liberally and ease the export of military-related machinery to Iraq.

In the week before that meeting, satellite reconnaissance showed three of Iraq's best armoured divisions with some 30,000 men and 300 tanks deployed within 30 miles of the Kuwaiti frontier; another 70,000 Iraqi support troops and supplies were on the move in the same direction.

In many ways, then, the meeting of July 19, 1990, encapsulates every problem which Lord Justice Scott has sought to unravel. Did that meeting consider the then current Red Book? What did it say about the Iraqi deployment near the Kuwaiti frontier? Is it among the documents submitted to the Scott enquiry? And above all else, why was the information of this massive Iraqi deployment ignored by this Cabinet Committee?

Surely, the nub of the Scott enquiry is not only whether the guidelines laid down in 1985 were ignored but also why they were ignored. The key to these questions must lie in the complete documentation of the advice given to and the decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee meeting of July 19, 1990. So far, Lady Thatcher, Mr Major and Mr Hurd have fudged the enquiry's questions about this.

Sincerely yours,  
JON KIMCHE  
(Journalist and editor),  
Camilla Lacey Lodge,  
Westhumble, Surrey,  
February 24.

## Trade with Malaysia

From Mr Michael Spicer, MP for Worcestershire South (Conservative)

Sir, One of the more depressing aspects of the most recent and outrageous in this week's escalating series of Malaysian attacks on Britain (letters, February 26) has been the willingness of some important British industrialists to trade the freedom of our press for Malaysian ringgits.

I was Minister for Aviation in the mid 1980s when Malaysia successfully used the threat of trade sanctions to secure extra business for its national airline at the expense of British airlines. Now they are at it again. Appeasement solved nothing.

This country imports over 50 per cent more from Malaysia than we export to them. If the suggestion made in your leader of February 26 that we should take up the matter with Gan proves ineffective, we should retaliate with an embargo on Malaysian goods until conditions of fair and free trade are restored.

What is totally unacceptable — and, given the signals it would send to China, for instance, highly dangerous — is that we should be thought willing to exchange our Western values for Dr Mahathir's authoritarian "Asian" ones.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL SPICER  
(Minister for Aviation, 1985-87),  
House of Commons,  
February 27.

From Mr George Franks

Sir, Doubtless your readers will be greatly relieved at the possibility of our returning to the smug complacency of the pre-Thatcher era. Surely we can now look forward to an export-led recovery, spearheaded by a fearless press and Labour Party, who will ensure that we do not seek any advantage over our honourable competitors in export markets such as France and Japan.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE FRANKS (Director),  
Henley Marketing Services Ltd.,  
8 Ravenscourt Place,  
Hammersmith, W6,  
February 25.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Costly burden of EC identity rule

From Mrs Mary Mallroy Hipwell

Sir, I have just received notification of the new EC-inspired regulations on money laundering, as interpreted by the John Money Laundering Steering Group based in London.

From April 1, I must verify my clients' "true" names and addresses as well as dates and places of birth, by reference to "a document obtained from a reputable source which bears a photograph", preferably a current full passport (not common in this area of high unemployment) or national identity card (I have obviously missed this development of the law).

Failing this, I have to check the voters' roll, make a credit reference search, request sight of a recent utility bill or bank statement, check a local telephone directory or visit the client's home. The process must be recorded, and the records kept for five years.

Presumably any potential clients who have just arrived in the area will have to wait until they receive a bill or bank statement before being entitled to take legal advice about a house purchase, unless they are prepared to stand the cost of a home visit by me. Heaven help anyone who does not have a permanent address.

If the Government wants us to check identities, the Government should produce and pay for a voluntary identity card. This whole scheme is ridiculously complicated and expensive, another stupid and unnecessary burden on business, and another example of the Government trying to privatise its own basic functions.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY MALLROY HIPWELL,  
Mallroy Hipwell Solicitors,  
61 High Street, Dunfermline, Fife,  
February 21.

## Care of City's redundant churches

From Professor K. H. Muria

Sir, There seems to be an assumption that all will be satisfactory if only new uses can be found for the City churches referred to in the report by the Redundant Churches Fund, established by law in 1969, as the nation's principal body for caring for redundant Anglican churches.

There are, however, many examples of unsuitable conversions of historical churches which have involved destruction of their interiors, with irreversible alterations to the fabric of the buildings.

Could I make two points about the Templeman proposals. The interiors of most of the churches are quite beautiful in themselves. Alterations which affect their quality and involve alterations to the fabric should not be countenanced. Secondly, the churches are very good examples of a range of architectural solutions posed by the liturgical form prevailing at the time they were built. This in many cases includes furnishings of high quality.

The question of suitable uses should take into account both these factors. A solution might be for the Diocese of London to organise a continuation of worship, including weekday prayer, possibly using "flying priests"; this could be much more economic than the present parochial system. I find it difficult to accept that the City itself would not assist in maintaining the fabric of these buildings, particularly if they were available for appropriate secular use not requiring major internal alterations.

Yours faithfully,  
K. H. MURIA (Hon Secretary,  
Ecological Society),  
University of Sheffield,  
School of Architectural Studies,  
PO Box 595, Sheffield.

## School polling stations

From Mr Barrie Lane

Sir, It is rarely necessary to close an entire school when it is needed as a polling station in an election (letter, February 24). In my borough, if any objection is made, a compromise is usually achieved. Frequently, however, no objection is made because the teachers are able to put such time to good use (e.g., as management training or "Baker" days).

Other factors also need to be taken into account when deciding on a polling station, not least wheelchair access and the scale of the charges imposed.

As a returning officer myself, I too would welcome elections on Sunday. I have no doubt that this would improve the turnout for the "basic expression of democracy".

Yours sincerely,  
BARRIE LANE,  
80 Park Avenue,  
Bush Hill Park,  
Enfield, Middlesex,  
February 25.

## Flaws in tax system

From Mr E. J. Henbrey

Sir, On January 25, shortly after publication of the current Finance Bill, you published a letter from the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants drawing attention to the Bill's length, complexity and opacity.

On February 16 the subject of your leader, "Tax error in their favour", was the relationship between the Inland Revenue and its "customers", and the fashion for "tricky" budgets; and in his letter on the same day Mr Nils Taube drew attention to the partial reintroduction of a tax on inflationary capital gains. These and other matters do suggest that there is a risk that the tax system is being brought into disrepute.

The current Finance Bill, to which new clauses have still to be added, is apparently longer than the entire consolidated 1982 Income Tax Act. Many of its clauses are difficult for experienced tax professionals to interpret. It is clearly time that the process for legislating on technical tax matters was reformed, as the Institute for Fiscal Studies and other bodies have long advocated.

The change in capital gains tax indexation, discussed by Mr Taube, is a simple money-raising exercise, ill-conceived under the cloak of being an anti-abuse measure. If abuse was the target it could easily have been hit directly: as it is, the denial of relief for

From the Chairman of the Redundant Churches Fund

Sir, There already exists a trust capable of preserving redundant City churches (letter, February 23). It is the Redundant Churches Fund, established by law in 1969, as the nation's principal body for caring for redundant Anglican churches.

It is now the country's foremost custodian of churches of significant architectural, historic and archaeological importance, with nearly 300 churches in its care. The churches remain consecrated and the Fund encourages their occasional use for services and for appropriate secular events.

Except where repairs are in progress the churches are always available for private prayer and to visitors. Shortly we are to be given the power to lease our churches, which will make them available for more extended use whilst their fabrics and fittings are safeguarded. The Fund is acknowledged as the leading conservation body of its kind in Europe and its experience and expertise are unrivalled.

The possibility that the Fund should take responsibility for these outstandingly important City churches deserves much more careful consideration than it has so far been given. So far as finance is concerned, we do not see why the cost of caring for them should pose a greater problem for the Fund than it would for a newly established trust.

We look forward to playing our part in the debate and helping to secure the best future for these buildings.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON BURRETT, Chairman,  
Redundant Churches Fund,  
89 Fleet Street, EC4.

## Printed pleasure

From Miss Kate Robertson

Sir, Like Bernard Levin (February 22), I have found myself defending the printed page against the electronic book. One of my great pleasures in life is reading whilst taking a bath, which does, on occasion, result in a waterlogged casualty. I cannot imagine that an electronic book would take to the bath-water so forgivingly.

Yours faithfully,  
KATE ROBERTSON,  
49 Burmester Road, SW17.

## Music to grow by

From Mrs Barbara Milne

Sir, Surely Classic FM's *Classic Gardeners' Forum* (letters, February 10, 22) should include Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*.

Yours sincerely,  
BARBARA MILNE,  
Springfield Farm, Buckhorn Weston,  
Gillingham, Dorset.

an indexed loss, retrospective in its effect, will hit the provider of venture capital particularly hard.

The tax benefit of certain allowances is to be restricted to 30 per cent — a move towards a 30 per cent basic rate tax, says the Chancellor. This, too, is an ill-conceived money-raising exercise.

The Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue recently admitted to a 10 per cent error rate, while a correspondent in your issue of February 18 writes that in his experience the rate is running at 38.5 per cent. That of itself brings the system into disrepute — even more so if a taxpayer is found by Customs or the Inland Revenue to have made even one error and is hounded as a result.

Self-assessment, now virtually here for companies and soon to come for individuals, demands certainty — so we are now being told. The Finance Bill, most importantly in respect of claims to capital allowances for investment in plant, requires that a taxpayer must make certain claims within two years of the end of the relevant accounting year; and the Inland Revenue wants the certainty that within those two years all relevant issues have been raised. Why, then, does the Revenue retain its six-year limitation period? The playing field tilts ever more against the customer.

Yours faithfully,  
E. J. HENBREY,  
40 Corringway, Ealing, W5.

## US war memorial beside the Kwai?

From Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius

Sir, In the town of Kanchanaburi, close by the River Kwai in Thailand, there is a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery. Here lie nearly 7,000 of the men from Britain, Australia and the Netherlands who worked and died building the infamous Burma-Thailand railway for the Japanese.

Also employed on the railway were a few hundred Americans, of whom some 130 died alongside their allies. The American survivors have long sought to erect a memorial to their dead colleagues in Thailand.

As part of this process, I understand they approached the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to ask if they might put a memorial in the Commonwealth cemetery, but were refused on the ground that it is for Commonwealth personnel only. They pointed out that many Dutchmen were buried there but were told that this was only by special arrangement with the Netherlands government. I am told that the Americans may now have to erect the memorial in Hawaii.

Deeply though I admire the work of the Commission, surely there is a case for their bending the rules in this instance. There is plenty of room in the cemetery, and the modest costs would presumably be borne by the Americans.

Surely we should treat an old and trusted ally better than this. There can be no reasonable objection to allowing our American friends to commemorate a small number of their dead alongside those who were their companions in death.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES JUNGUIS,  
Lawthick, Mylor Churchtown,  
Falmouth, Cornwall.

## Car crash sentence

From His Honour Judge Richard Pickering

Sir, Your report of February 23 on the sentences passed by me on two youths guilty of unlawfully taking a motor vehicle was factually correct, but what was omitted gave a false impression. A fuller account would have made it clear that in passing sentence I stated to the defendants:

a) that though these boys were not in the car when a third youth so drove it that a child was killed, their behaviour was part of the pattern that led immediately to that tragedy, and that my whole instinct was to pass a custodial sentence;

b) that Parliament in 1988 had seen fit actually to reduce the punishment for the offence to a maximum of six months in custody;

c) that the length of time spent by the youths in custody before the trial, four months, was such that, even if I imposed the maximum sentence permitted by Parliament, they would immediately walk free;

d) that rather than make such an empty gesture, the public interest was better served by making orders providing for training and supervision.

It would be wrong for the public to conclude, as they might well from your report, that these offences were not gravely considered by this court.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD PICKERING,  
Liverpool Crown Court,  
Derby Square, Liverpool 2.

## Diagnosing abuse

From The President of the Association of Police Surgeons

Sir, On Feb. 22 you reported the case in which a child was diagnosed as having "severe bruising" which was later recognised as ink marks from the child's wellington boots. This highlights an important aspect of suspected child abuse.

Medico-legal training at undergraduate level in the majority of UK medical schools is either meagre or non-existent. In cases such as the one reported, it is advisable for the child to be examined both by a paediatrician and by a properly trained police surgeon, in which case it is unlikely that such an unfortunate mistake would have been made in the diagnosis.

In all cases of child abuse, whether physical or sexual, an examination by an experienced clinical forensic physician (a police surgeon) is essential in the interests of an accurate diagnosis to confirm or eliminate the possibility of abuse.

Yours sincerely,  
RALPH A. R. LAWRENCE  
(President, Association of Police Surgeons),  
Rosenmead, 6 Greenhill Lane,  
Leabrooks, Derby.

## Not so fast food

From Mrs Mildred Hayes

Sir, In these days of convenience packaged food, what joy to be told recently, when visiting a local country butcher and admiring the dressed rabbits: "Yes, local, freshly ferreted".

Yours faithfully,  
MILDRED HAYES,  
26 Rugby Road,  
Lutterworth, Leicester.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.











## NEWS

### Israel orders clamp on extremists

Israel has promised to detain extremist Jewish leaders, disarm and limit the movements of their supporters and release up to a thousand Palestinian prisoners to try to curb the backlash from the Muslim massacre at Hebron. But the murder of ten people in a Christian Maronite church in Lebanon yesterday has been linked to the mosque killings, and another four Palestinians died in the occupied territories on the third day of violent clashes. Pages 1, 12

### Cheap drink ruling sparks row

European Commission officials in Brussels have said that British shoppers can use the telephone and credit cards to buy cheap drink and tobacco from across the Channel. But their interpretation of tax regulations has already been disputed by Britain, France, Italy and Germany. Page 1

### Troops needed

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, commander of UN forces in Bosnia, urgently needs more men to rescue the tottering peace process. Pages 1, 9, 10

### Fire kills eight

Police have launched a murder hunt after eight people died in a fire at an illegal sex cinema in central London. Page 3

### Optional history

The Gunpowder Plot, the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London will become optional items in the history curriculum in 1995 if an advisory group has its way. Page 2

### Free-market welfare

The Adam Smith Institute has published radical proposals to privatise the welfare state including an alternative to the social security system. Page 8

### Damaging evidence

Evidence to the Scott enquiry by Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, is expected to show some Cabinet members in unfavourable light. Page 8

### TV best-seller

The BBC drama serial *Middlemarch* is expected to become an international best-seller and has already attracted interest from Holland, Australia, New Zealand, Spain and Scandinavia. Page 3

### Work of sacked artist blooms again

W.J. Caparne, who was dismissed as an art teacher by Oundle School, Northamptonshire, 100 years ago because he refused to teach mechanical drawing, is to be commemorated by the school as an undiscovered genius. Caparne taught there for 14 years but later became a horticulturalist and watercolour painter of irises. Page 3

### New look at Ulster

John Major's Ulster peace initiative attracted softer criticism yesterday from Sinn Féin which said the government had adopted a new and helpful tone on Northern Ireland. Page 2

### Land battle looms

The obsession with land of white and black South Africans threatens the vision of President de Klerk to replace apartheid and avert revolution. Page 11

### Cult acquittals

The acquittal of 11 Branch Davidian cult survivors on charges of murder and conspiracy is seen as an embarrassing failure for the American government. Page 12

### Father charged

Frederick West, 52, has been charged with the murder of his missing daughter after remains were discovered in the garden of his Gloucester home. Page 3

### CAP under fire

A report by agricultural academics for the EC economic affairs directorate calls for the end of the Common Agricultural Policy. Page 13

### Polls cap tax

Council tax levels are being held down as part of the local elections campaign; county councils not facing elections have increased demands. Page 8



Right-wing Israelis accompanying the funeral cortege of their "martyr", the assassin Baruch Goldstein, in Jerusalem yesterday. Pages 1, 12

## SPORTS

**Football:** Aston Villa won a place in the final of the Coca-Cola Cup after a penalty shoot-out with Tranmere Rovers. Page 21

**Golf:** Carl Mason claimed his first European Tour victory in 20 years by winning the Turespana Andalucian Open. Page 21

**Cricket:** With Devon Malcolm returning home from the West Indies for exploratory knee surgery, England may call up Mark Butcher or Martin McCague. Page 23

**Winter Olympics:** The British four-man bobsleigh team finished fifth overall, Britain's highest placing for 58 years. Page 24

**Bond rates:** Central bankers concerned by the volatility in world bond rates are to discuss the role of hedge funds when they meet in Basel next weekend. Page 40

**Dinosaur comeback:** Department stores, the dinosaurs of the High Street, are preparing to fight back as their potential market grows. Page 38

**Bank history:** Barclays has made history in Australia by becoming the first foreign bank to be granted branch status. This will allow the bank to use its balance sheet to back its business development in Australia. Page 37

**New role:** Jill Seward, the 1986 Ealing vicarage rape victim, is using her experience to help other sufferers. Page 14

**Melting pot:** This season's autumn/winter previews saw the strongest showing by British designers for many years. Not since the early 1980s have so many names vied for attention. Iain R. Webb reports. Page 15

**Natural talent:** Seven months after Daniel's mother told of her gifted son's plight at school, the reports on their progress. Page 31

**Leaving the ice:** Ice dancing star Christopher Dean is hanging up his skates, at least long enough to make his first foray into classical ballet. His debut work will be premiered by English National Ballet in the spring of 1995. Page 33

**Dream girl:** ITV's new detective series, *Anna Lee*, provides a heroine straight out of a girls' comic. Watch out for Anna Lee's annuals at Christmas, says Lynne Truss. Page 33

**Welcome back:** Rodney Milnes gives three cheers for the Welsh National Opera's excellent revival of Handel's *Ariodante* in Cardiff. Page 34



Sir Harold Acton, aesthete, poet, patron and critic of the arts, historian and novelist, has died at La Pietra, his Tuscan villa, aged 89. Pages 1, 19

Aleksandr Rutskoi, former Russian vice-president freed with five others involved in the October uprising, plans to run for president. Page 13

David Pears, dubbed the unluckiest rugby player in England, is recalled to the national team after only three matches since September. Page 21

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

### On the wrong side of the law

Should arriving five minutes late for a court hearing lead to a prison sentence? Patrick Stevens on a judge's wide-ranging powers

### Death on two legs

These people proclaim that animals may not be killed. But human beings have no such protection. Bernard Levin on animal liberation supporters

### Better late than never

Medardo Rospi was once hailed as the greatest living sculptor. More than 60 years after his death his first substantial retrospective is mounted in Britain

Billy Connolly's encounter with Jeremy Isaacs in *Face to Face* is more a performance than an interview (BBC2, 11.15pm). Page 39

### Just say no

The Prime Minister must insist that the Tory manifesto for the European elections reflects his views as set out in his *Economist* article last autumn. Page 17

### Ulster's true agenda

Ulster's constitutional parties should reclaim the initiative from the men of violence. Page 17

### The road to Rome

If the PDS were to fall short of an absolute majority, a government with the body of Occhetto and the head of Ciampi would ensure greater stability. Page 17

### WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The great originator of English journalism, Daniel Defoe, who invented almost all the techniques of our craft, saw that the plague year was the perfect subject for a history that people would want to read. Page 16

### MATTHEW PARRIS

We were eight. It was the work of a moment to establish that not one of us cared uppepper for sprouts; or would ever have felt it necessary to invent them if they had not existed. Page 16

Sir Harold Acton, historian and aesthete, Jersey Joe Walcott, former world heavyweight boxing champion, Leonard Lewis, barrister and mathematician. Page 19

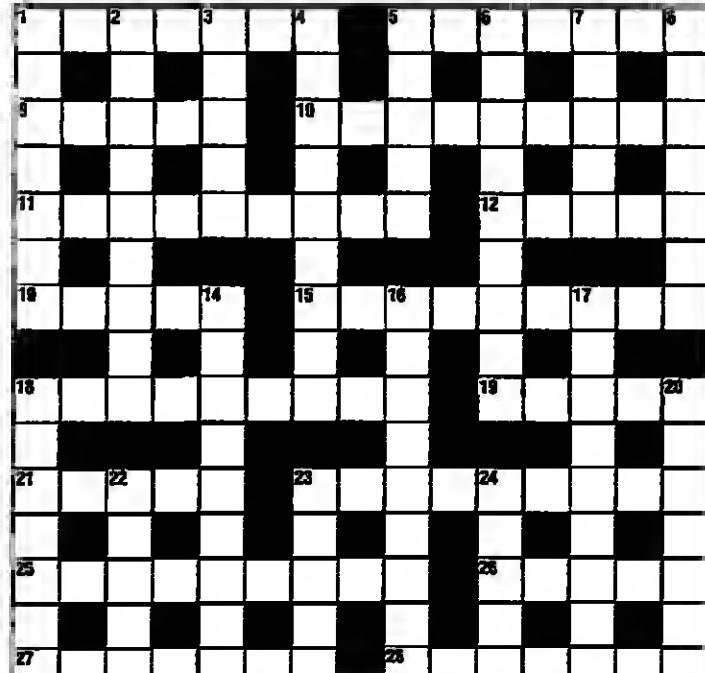
Call for memorial to Americans who died on the Burma-Thailand railway. Page 17

Clinton aides behave as if their President had deep deposits of public trust. In fact, that account was pretty slim when Mr Clinton got to Washington, and it is just about tapped out now.

*The New York Times*  
The Administration is considering a (welfare) plan that would affect only new applicants and those recipients born after 1970... [leaving] the government to find jobs for only about 300,000 - within the government's ability to finance.

*The Washington Post*

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,477



### ACROSS

- The regiment invested in Personal Equity Plans maybe (7).
- Find wonder in source of growth - alga, say (7).
- A tale cut short by an original politician (5).
- Many an Irish artist incorporates a sign for the queen (9).
- It shows the state of the game from scratch - ace may follow (5-4).
- Time for find inspiration for romantic poetry (5).
- Long ships following? Indeed! (5).
- With eastern money, no one returns to teaching (9).
- Fastener puts dress awry (5,4).
- Yankee almost disrupted the state (5).
- Ancient Britons had both diamonds and nickel (5).

### DOWN

- Yes, pals get split up in battle (7).
- Reasonable explanation elicited from a relation (9).
- Allow to correspond (5).
- Confirmation, for example, that the Californian port is not finished (9).
- Pay out the odds at the finish (5).
- Fruit to give a lift to a drink (9).
- Get more from the next race (5).
- Force fierce woman to accept a ring (7).
- Peculiar stain on the loch causing pollution (9).
- Put up with a Continental on the river (9).
- "And dallies with the — of love" (T. Night) (9).
- Cookery father suggested, "Put on a coat" (7).
- A wood stand can be metal, too (7).
- Sea eagles seen frenziedly encircling rook (5).
- Established when retired (5).
- Marvellous, the French story! (5).



The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,476 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a stationery rack.

## THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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West Surrey/Sussex	703
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Wiltshire/Dorset	705
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North East	794
South East	795
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North East	800

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### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp. Guernsey 14C (57F); lowest day temp. Loch Gairloch 0C (32F); lowest night temp. Loch Gairloch 0C (32F); highest night temp. Guernsey 14C (57F).

### General: England and Wales

will be cloudy and misty, and any early fog should thin out through the morning. Brighter spells could develop, mainly in southern England and South Wales. There will be patchy rain or showers, with a small chance of a thunderstorm in the Channel Isles. Scotland will be cloudy and misty, especially over the Thawing snow. There will be rain and drizzle, especially in northern parts where it will turn to sleet and snow over higher ground. It will be windy, especially in the North and West. Northern Ireland will be misty with patchy rain or drizzle, and a strong breeze. Temperatures will be less mild in the South, but a little less cold in Scotland.

**London, SE, SW & Central S** England, E Anglia, E & W Midlands, S Wales: cloudy and misty, perhaps a patchy shower. Some brighter spells developing. Wind mainly W, light to moderate. Max 10C (50F).

### E, N, W, Central N & NE

England, N Wales, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, S W Scotland, Glasgow: cloudy and misty. Patchy rain at times. Wind SW light to moderate. Max 8C (46F).

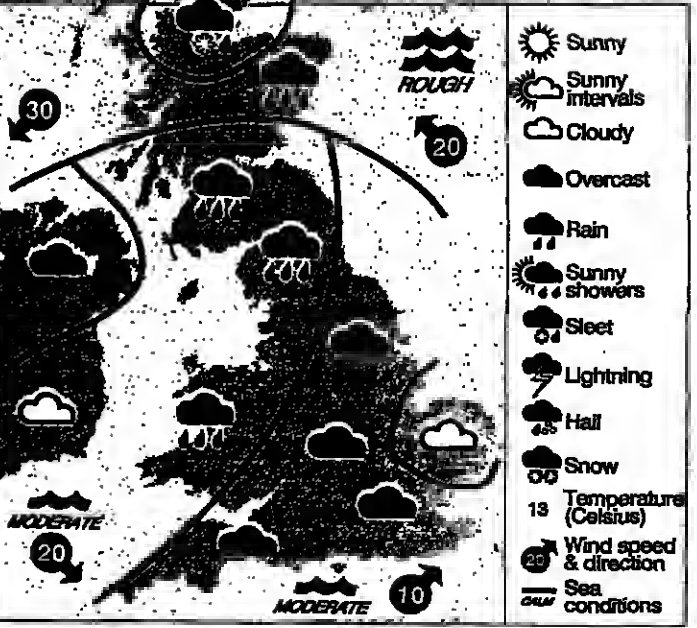
**Channel Isles:** rather cloudy. Some brighter spells. A few showers, perhaps thundery. Wind S becoming W, light to moderate. Max 8C (46F).

**Isle of Man, Argyll, N Ireland:** cloudy with patchy rain. Wind mainly N, fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).

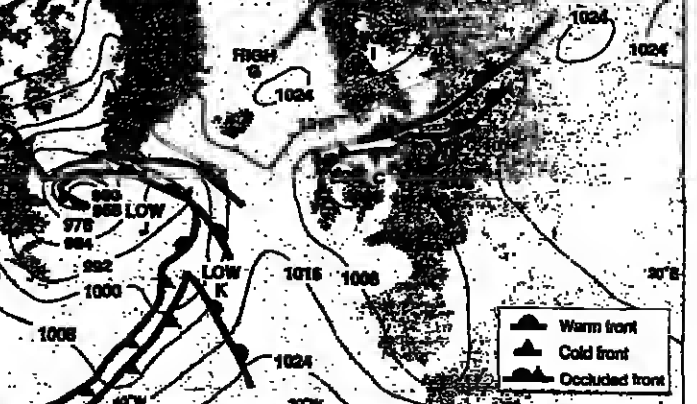
**Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, N W Scotland, Orkney:** cloudy and misty. Rain or drizzle, but sleet or snow on higher ground. Wind NE fresh to strong, but gales on exposed coasts and hills. Max 5C (41F).

**Shetland:** rather cloudy. Scattered sleet or snow showers. Wind NE strong to gale. Max 2C (36F).

**Outlook:** more rain or showers, but generally becoming brighter.



Changes to chart below from noon: High G will merge with High I. Low C will move NE and fill; Low D east and fill; Low K NE and deepen; and Low J will fill.



Changes to chart below from noon: High G will merge with High I. Low C will move NE and fill; Low D east and fill; Low K NE and deepen; and Low J will fill.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.07	7.88	3.54	7.22	Liverpool	12.24	6.58	12.43	10.14
Aberdeen	2.27	4.46	2.48	4.70	Lowestoft	10.57	2.45	11.03	2.76
Amersham	8.41	14.26	8.04	14.12	Margate	1.05	5.04	1.45	4.91
Belfast	12.08	6.77	12.26	3.75	Millport Haven	7.39	7.85	8.02	7.48
Cardiff	8.26	13.22	8.46	13.01	Newquay	7.00	7.6	6.53	7.4
Doncaster	7.21	5.7	7.44	5.8	Oban	7.00	7.6	6.53	7.4
Exeter	12.08	6.77	12.26	3.75	Perth	6.21	5.8	6.46	6.7
Falmouth	8.41	14.26	8.04	14.12	Portsmouth	12.18	2.3	8.43	2.1
Glasgow	2.27	4.46	2.48	4.70	Reading	12.22	5.0	12.46	4.5
Harwich	1.04	4.15	1.31	4.13	Sharnham	12.19	6.82	12.35	6.82
Heathrow	11.40	6.89	11.58	6.89	Southampton	12.02	4.50	12.15	4.71
Humberside	7.41	7.91	7.50	8.22	Swansea	7.42	10.28	8.04	10.05
Leeds	7.25	10.05	7.45	9.88	Torquay	5.04	5.82	5.16	5.82
Leicester	7.48	6.9	7.58	7.4	Wilton-on-Don	12.54	4.39	1.21	4.39
Lincoln	3.53	6.28	4.10	5.96					



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Christopher Dean turns his talents to the ballet stage

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Launch pad to success for bright ideas

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# THE TIMES

MONDAY FEBRUARY 28 1994

## Tranmere's dream of reaching Wembley ends in heartbreak Bosnich decides penalty drama



Bosnich sets Villa on the way to Wembley with the save that won the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final penalty shoot-out yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Aston Villa 3  
Tranmere Rovers 1  
(aet; agg 4-4; Aston Villa win 5-4 on penalties)

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

TRANMERE'S 110-year dream of reaching their first significant cup final was destroyed in the lottery of penalty shoot-outs that the powers that be deem worthy of settling vital tournament games in this supposedly enlightened age.

The third team on Merseyside, they were first denied, as in the first leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, by a late goal from Dalian Atkinson. Then, having survived extra-time of a match always more dramatic than cultured, Tranmere lost to three acrobatic penalty saves by a goalkeeper who, under the rules of international football, had no right to be standing between the posts.

Mark Bosnich should unquestionably have been sent off for his blatant "professional" foul that brought down Aldridge, a foul for which the referee, Alan Gurn, in his customary, fatherly fashion, saw fit to issue a prolonged naughty-boy lecture.

Aldridge, as it happened, exacted minimal revenge by scoring his seventh goal of the competition this season from the penalty spot. By then, Villa had gone two goals up, Tranmere's soul was rocking and Villa Park was throbbing to the voices of the majority of the 40,593 audience.

Tranmere had not been bold enough. This was never a case of the underdog, in the fashion of Luton Town and Bolton Wanderers, out-playing Premiership rivals. Tranmere put all their trust in their defence.

Nevertheless, Tranmere could have caught Villa cold at the start. Malkin had produced arguably his best pass of the game, Aldridge had sprinted clear, but Cox and Teale came at him from either side like cymbals. Their collusive force deflected the ball. Nevins was quickly on to the rebound, but Bosnich pushed his shot away for a corner. Within a minute, Nolan had overlapped down the right but Malkin scooped his chance high and wide from ten yards.

Villa punished Tranmere's misses severely. Townsend was quicker into the tackle than Nolan near the halfway line and quick and inventive in setting up the goal, exchanging

### THE SHOOT-OUT

Villa started - failed attempts in bold		Tranmere	
Saunders	1-0	Irons	1-1
Thomas	2-1	Thomas	2-2
Fenton	3-2	Brannan	3-3
Atkinson	4-2	Higgins	4-3
Elliot	4-3	Aldridge	4-4
Richardson	4-4	Clark	4-4
Daley	5-4	Nolan	5-4

passes with Daley, stretching down the left flank before driving the ball hard and low towards the near post. Saunders poached superbly, scoring from six yards.

Within five minutes, the groping efforts of Tranmere were exposed again. This time, McGrath fouled Saunders, Houghton flicked the ball to Richardson and his curling centre was met with tremendous force by Teale, diving flat out to torpedo it past Nixon.

All else was to fall away in terms of quality thereafter. Strangely, although the capricious wind had died away by half-time, neither side showed control, ambition or creation in the second half. Ron Atkinson was driving himself purple with indignation as he gesticulated, shouted and called for effort from the touchline.

Indeed, at one stage, he was almost on the pitch itself trying to browbeat his winger, Daley, into positive action.

Yet it was all hit and miss until the 88th minute. Tranmere, having come a mighty long way from the fourth division and with half their team culled from non-League football, paid the price for being so limited in desire to do anything but survive. Another foul led to the crucial goal and this time, when Daley was given far too much room to cross from the right, his delivery went like an arrow towards a spot ten yards out where Atkinson brought the stadium alight with his dramatic, diving, downward header into the net.

Too late Tranmere awoke, there was injury time aplenty and, several minutes into it, O'Brien took a free kick from 30 yards out. He comprehensively outwitted Bosnich with his curling flight, but then turned in despair as the ball struck the inside of the goalkeeper's right-hand post, bounced across the face of the goal and trickled to safety.

The only significant moment of two plodding periods of extra-time was the last as Atkinson slammed brilliantly through a cluster of white Tranmere shirts and was denied only

by the bravery of Nixon, diving at his feet.

The spurious drama of penalties was played out in front of the North Stand, where the Tranmere supporters were congregated. Brannan was the first to experience the personal agony of missing, or rather having his kick saved by the flying Australian goalkeeper. While several senior Villa players - including Townsend, McGrath and Barrett - opted out of the penalty ritual, it was left to Elhag, 21, to strike the crossbar. So, into the sudden-death phase of penalties, Richardson lifted his shot yards over the bar before O'Brien became the second victim of Bosnich's reflexes. Then Daley scored, prompting Nolan to stride forward, strike a clean right-foot shot and turn, beaten, as Bosnich, for the third time, got both hands to the penalty.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M Bosnich - N Cox (sub: R Fenton 70min), P McGrath, S Teale, E Barrett - R Houghton (sub: U Elhag 91), K Richardson, A Townsend, A Daley - O Saunders, O Atkinson.

TRANSMERE ROVERS (5-3-2): E Nixon - J Nolan, O Higgins (sub: T Thomas 91), J McGreal, G Brannan, P Nevins (sub: J Morrissey 91), L O'Brien, K Irons - C Malkin, J Aldridge.

Referee: A Gurn.

Chelsea drama, page 26  
Fry's troubles, page 27

## Mason defies sands of time with victory

FROM MEL WEBB IN JEREZ, SPAIN

FOR the first time in a 20-year career, a perpetual runner-up grabbed the main prize yesterday as Carl Mason claimed his first European Tour victory by winning the Turespafia Andalucian Open in a tension-filled climax with a final round of 70 and a total of 278, ten under par.

Mason, 40, who won by two shots from José Maria Olazábal, with Gordon Brand Jr a stroke further behind, has won tournaments in such golfing strongholds as Zambia (twice) and Kenya, and has finished second six times in Europe. After sinking the winning putt and happy to the point of tears, he could barely express his emotions after the longest 18 holes of his life.

"I don't know what to say," he said. "It hurt... it really hurt. I didn't enjoy that one bit. Every time I've been up there in the past, I've made a complete mess of it. After all these years of trying, I'm glad to get it done at last."

He did not achieve the biggest moment of his professional life without being put to the test. It came on the 17th, when Olazábal pulled his drive miles to the left. He tried to extricate his mud-covered ball, but managed only to hit an electrical supply box, and had still got nowhere.

As Olazábal prepared to play his third, Mason, 30 yards ahead, had yet to play his second, but then Olazábal delivered what could have been a killing blow by getting up and down from 30 yards, holing from 25 feet for a par.

Mason, meanwhile, put his first putt six feet past and missed it coming back. Three putts, a bogey, only one shot in it with a hole to play. Mason had been using a putting grip gleaned from an old instruction film by the legendary Bobby Jones, and it was almost the first time in four days that it had let him down.

So to the downhill last, with Mason telling himself that all he had to do was par the hole for the fourth time in the tournament to win by a shot,

but even then he had to sweat as he put his drive into a fairway bunker on the right.

Olazábal followed him in, but had a hint of a chance when Mason hit more sand 20 yards from the pin. As it turned out, it was the best place to be. To stand any chance of victory Olazábal had to go for the flag, tucked into the left corner of the green, but succeeded only in going through the green into a muddy, tight lie.

Olazábal had as much



Mason: emotional

rough as green to work with, and had to hit downhill and downwind. He tried to bump the ball in, but it stuck fast in the last yard of rough. At that moment Mason knew the tournament was there for the taking, and a perfect bunker shot to six feet virtually settled it. Olazábal holed out for a bogey five, and Mason calmly rolled the putt in to win £50,535 to go fourth in the order of merit and put himself only £38,636 short of the £1 million mark in European Tour earnings.

Severiano Ballesteros was, typically, as brilliant as only he can be in places and as erratic as only he can be in others. He had six birdies in a 74, but also a triple bogey, two double bogeys, and a bogey, and at one end par was a distant eighteenth.

Final scores, page 22

## Pears called in as England drop five for Paris

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TWO years and a couple of operations since his last international appearance, David Pears will appear once more in an England jersey when the five nations' championship resumes on Saturday. He was selected yesterday to play against France in Paris in a team scoured of one-third of the players who lost so disappointingly to Ireland nine days ago.

It will be his fourth cap but the first at full back for Pears, who has played only three matches since September 4. He takes over from Jonathan Callard who, having kicked 39 of the 42 points England have scored in their three internationals this season, discovers how cruel international sport can be.

The England management has been, in part, as good as its word. Players such as Tony Underwood and Martin

Bayfield have been given the chance to make good, but now make way, respectively, for Ian Hunter on the wing, and Nigel Redman, at lock. However, Kyran Bracken and Neil Back pay the price for the deficiencies of others as Dewi Morris and Ben Clarke return at scrum half and flanker while Rob Andrew, who might say, is on a yellow card at stand-off half. With Stuart Barnes chafing at the bit, he cannot afford a second poor game in succession.

Yet only in two respects, injuries excepted, have England departed from the squad established earlier this year and which they still expect to go through to the World Cup next year. Pears was elevated from the A squad yesterday and John Hall, the Bath flanker who played against Scotland, declined the chance to play for England A and must now see his World Cup hopes dribbling away. Having removed Callard

after three caps, the goal-kicking goes to Andrew, the first time since 1989 that he has assumed that job as first choice, though he has scored 151 points for his country. "We have been a bit disappointed with the first two games," Geoff Cooke, the

manager, said at Twickenham yesterday with just a hint of understatement. "We have had a few injury problems [neither Richards nor Guscott is available] and we know we face a difficult task in Paris. We need the sort of qualities we think Dewi can bring - his

verve and strength. We want to tighten things up in the forwards; a good, hard grafting performance is going to be necessary and Ollie Redman deserves his chance."

Bracken, who received little help from his forwards against Scotland and Ireland, will come again, as will the young Underwood, once he has recovered the sparkle lacking from his game all season. However, the stopgap nature of Callard's selection was indicated when Cooke said: "He did what we asked him to do, but we are looking for more."

Considerably more, to retrieve the ground lost in the one-point victory over the Scots and one-point defeat by Ireland. England expected to go to the Parc des Princes in a match to decide the championship, now, their minimum objective for the season of three wins from four championship matches is looking slinky, particularly against a

France team also seeking to bounce back from defeat.

Neither Steve Ojomoh, retained at No. 8, nor Barnes trained yesterday. Ojomoh having brused a calf in the cup match against Saracens on Saturday and Barnes suffering as much from indignation as from a niggling knee injury.

France, for their part, have gone one better than England by recalling Laurent Cabannes to their back row even though he has played no rugby since suffering a thigh injury on September 30.

They have also named two new caps in William Techoueyres, the powerful SBUC wing who played in the championship-winning Bègles side of 1991, and Laurent Benzezech, the Racing Club tight-head prop who has made eight A-team appearances.

Injuries forgotten, page 28  
Cup reports, page 28

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## Defeat in one-day international ends troubled stay in Jamaica

## England fear conspiracy of the fates

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

THERE were to be no signs of regret as the England cricketers left Jamaica yesterday. Kingston has not been kind to them and each day this past week has brought dismay and disruption. Even the ten hours of travelling which separated them from their St Vincent, where they were due to arrive last night, was thought a small price to pay for moving on.

One of the tranquil Windward Islands, St Vincent will present a pleasant contrast to Kingston, where England's lowering spirits have been further punished by the limitations of life in their heavily guarded hotel. Outside the gates lies a city where more than 100 people have been murdered in the first two months of this year.

In relative terms, the events of Saturday ranked as only a minor setback. Losing a one-day international, and a close one at that, could not compare for dressing-room grief with the manner and margin of the defeat in the first Test, or the departure of Devon Malcolm for home on Saturday evening.

It is the loss of the popular

Malcolm, more than anything, which has stunned the tour party. They will miss his bowling — they do not expect him back — and Kingston, the city of his birth, has been particularly cruel to him. Liked for his charm, short-sightedness and even his hopeless batting, everybody was angry for him when Courtney Walsh abused the law and spirit of the game by bowling at Malcolm's body in the Test. Nobody was surprised that Malcolm's seat was empty at a dinner to raise money for, among others, Walsh.

Then, late on Friday, came news that Malcolm's swollen right knee, the legacy of a lost run-out on the penultimate evening of the Test, was potentially serious. The result of exploratory surgery in Manchester may be known today and the likelihood is that a call will go out for a replacement, either Mark Lloyd, if the choice is on form and fitness, or Martin McCague, if the loss of the team's one genuinely fast bowler is thought to warrant a gamble on another.

What the second one-day international emphasised again was that England lack bowlers with the experience of Caribbean conditions to contain West Indian batsmen intent on mayhem. At his best, Angus Fraser could have done the job, but this game underlined, not least to himself, that he is far short of his peak.

The form of a sensibly structured top four was reason for real encouragement but in certain areas, England's cricket is so naive that one fears for the future. By his body language, Keith Fletcher feels that way, too. The one survivor of a leadership base that collapsed last summer with the resignations of Graham Gooch and Ted Dexter, Fletcher is inevitably under pressure. The team manager has so far escaped the more poisonous barbs of England's spell in the doldrums but he is shrewd enough to know that cannot last.

As the game was dragged away from England on Saturday by a crucial break for rain, a sparkling innings from Jimmy Adams and some over-generous bowling, Fletcher prowled the dressing-room balcony, unable to stay seated. He is a man who has grown accustomed, during his years with Essex, to winning teams and responsive players. Losing comes hard, but there are players here who are failing to respond to his directions and that must come harder.

England had been well placed to win and take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series, when a shower intervened with West Indies needing 96 from 14 overs, with six wickets intact. The revised target was 80 from 11, enough of a foreboding to make the chase easier to sustain.

The odds still favoured England when Steve Watkins dismissed Richie Richardson and Roger Harper in three balls, leaving a target of 52 from



Fraser in pensive mood as Adams, left, takes control for West Indies at Sabina Park on Saturday

seven with Adams the solitary surviving batsman. But for one of such anonymity outside Jamaica, Adams has achieved much this week and he was now about to add another man-of-the-match award to the one he collected from the Test.

He made the equation look simple. His unbeaten 52 came from only 46 balls and, as the hysterical capacity crowd swarmed around the dressing-

rooms afterwards, Adams was obliged to re-emerge and shake the hands of his people as if he was part of the royal visit which lands here this week. Nottinghamshire, whom he joins in April, can congratulate themselves on their foresight.

Further ominous news for England was the return to form of Desmond Haynes, who marked his 237th one-day international with his 72nd

score of 50 or more. A week ago, it looked as if his long career was on its last legs. After 16 years of almost constant cricket he is one of the wonders of the modern game.

The same is true of West Indies' four-man fast bowling policy, though on Saturday it had a dishevelled look. Curtly Ambrose was officially rested after a below-par Test, though there is a suspicion of a shoulder strain, and Walsh

limped off after five wayward overs, having twisted an ankle. For an England side fearing a conspiracy of the fates, these were reassuring worries to the opposition.

Hugh Morris, the England A and Glamorgan captain, is recovering from a minor knee operation after his return from the successful A tour of South Africa. "I will be OK in a few weeks and can then start training," Morris said.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Fehlmann prospers as winds change

OLD times returned to the Whitbread Round the World Race this weekend, with Pierre Fehlmann, a doyen of the yacht race for the past eight years, at last disputing the lead with Grant Dalton and with the two-masted Maxis making the running.

Until now, Fehlmann, line honours winner in 1986 and third in 1990, had begun to look like yesterday's man in Merit Cup. Outrigger by Dalton's New Zealand Endeavour, his more cautious skills were mocked by the daredevil driving of the younger skippers in the Whitbread 60 class.

A change in the weather has brought a change in the competition with the fleet, halfway between New Zealand and Cape Horn, advancing on a broad front with 600 miles between the most northerly and most southerly yachts. Moderate winds from the north-west have replaced the usual gales of the Roaring Forties.

## Ciniglio reacts angrily

BADMINTON: England will make changes after their failure to reach the world team finals for the first time, according to Ciri Ciniglio, the team manager (Richard Eaton writes). After the men's 3-2 Thomas Cup defeat to Finland and the women's 4-1 loss to Sweden in the Uber Cup at Glasgow on Saturday, Ciniglio criticised his men's singles players in particular and spoke of bringing in youngsters for the European championships in April.

The bonuses at Glasgow were the progress of Joanne Wright into a world-class doubles player and the fine performance of Julie Bradbury, who is worth an inclusion in the British Olympic squad.

## Tigers forge ahead

BASKETBALL: With a little help from Birmingham Bulls, the Thames Valley Tigers established themselves on Saturday as even more overwhelming favourites for their first league title. While the Bulls were gaining a surprising 106-88 victory on the court of the defending champions, Worthing Bears, the Tigers beat Chester Jets, 95-84, who are another unregarded club. The Jets were aiming to go into second place with two games in hand on Manchester Giants, the faltering league leaders.

## Setback for Searles

ROWING: Greg and Jonny Searle, the Olympic and world champions, suffered a rare defeat on the Tideway on Saturday when, rowing for a Molesey GB squad crew, they were beaten twice by the Cambridge Boat Race crew. Cambridge, who won the first of two half-course contests after a controversial restart, are considered more advanced at this stage than Oxford, who experienced a quarter-length defeat and a dead heat in two rows against a London crew of lightweight internationals.

## Cardiff Devils home in

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils, who have dominated the league again, need one more win to retain the British league premier division title, with four weeks of the regular season remaining. A 12-4 home win over Bracknell Bees took Devils closer, with Rick Brebant scoring four goals and Hilton Ruggles three. The race for second place is close between Murrayfield Racers, Sheffield Steelers and Fife Flyers. Racers are favourites as they have a game in hand over the two others.

## Marshall loses in final

SQUASH: Peter Marshall's ambition to become Britain's first home winner of a leading men's title for more than two decades was extinguished at Cardiff on Saturday by Brett Martin, of Australia, who beat the British champion 5-15, 17-15, 15-12, 15-12 in the final of the Leekes Classic. Martin's sister, Michelle, the world champion, failed to complete a family double. She lost 17-14, 8-15, 15-12, 15-13 in 54 minutes to a fellow-Australian, Liz Irving, in the women's final.

## England in disarray

HOCKEY: England's preparations for the women's World Cup in Dublin were left in disarray yesterday after two 2-1 losses to Scotland. With only two weeks left before the final selection for Dublin, the manager, Jenny Cardwell, and coach, Sue Slocombe, have been left with a training squad of walking wounded after the weekend's matches, both of which were settled by goals from Rhona Simpson and Sue McDonald for Scotland. Sandie Lister, the captain, is one of seven injured England players.

## Young puts New Zealand in sight of rare victory

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A FINE unbroken partnership of 144 between the inexperienced opener, Bryan Young, and Shane Thomson left New Zealand with a good chance of victory at the end of the fourth day of the third and final Test match against Pakistan in Christchurch yesterday. New Zealand needed another 47 to win with six wickets standing.

Young, after batting for six hours and 45 minutes, was unbeaten on 115 and Thomson on his highest Test score of 93. After conceding a first-innings deficit of 144, New Zealand bowled Pakistan out on Saturday for 179 to give themselves a chance.

They started the day at nine without loss, needing 324 for victory, and ended it well placed at 277 for four.

A win would be welcome for New Zealand, who have already lost the series 2-0 and were beaten 2-0 by Australia in the preceding series, before Christmas.

At 133 for four in mid-afternoon and with all their experienced batsmen gone, they seemed without hope but Thomson, 25, in his fifth Test, and Young, 29, in his fourth, had other ideas.

Young played few memorable shots but seldom played a false stroke even against the fearsome pace pairing of Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram, who destroyed New Zealand in the first two Tests.

Against the second new ball, he scampered through for a single for his maiden century, and then waved his bat aloft to the cheering crowd. He hit six fours in his 302-ball innings.

By contrast, Thomson attacked the bowling. He was not afraid to hook the fast bowlers and hit Akram Raza, the off-spinner, out of the attack by lofting him over the infield. Thomson hit 11 fours and two sixes in his 133-ball

innings, which was punctuated with hooks and flashing drives. Young, on 71 when Thomson joined him, was content to play the anchor role.

Waqar and Wasim looked to have broken New Zealand after lunch when they dismissed New Zealand's three most experienced batsmen — Andrew Jones, Ken Rutherford and Mark Greatbatch — in hostile spells of sustained fast bowling.

New Zealand lost Blair Hartland, caught at slip by Imzamm-ul-Haq off Wasim for 10, but were well placed at 76 for one at lunch.

But off the second ball after lunch, Jones, playing his last Test innings, was run out for 26 by a direct hit from Basit Ali. He was run out in similar fashion in the first innings for 81.

Jones was applauded by the Pakistan team and given a standing ovation by the crowd as he left the pitch. The Pakistan fielders frequently threw the wicket down in a brilliant display of ground fielding.

Rutherford started confidently, hitting a four off his first ball and lofting Raza over mid-wicket for six, but on 13, Wasim had him leg before.

Greatbatch was all at sea against a very quick Waqar, rarely laying bat on ball until he finally edged one to Imzamm-ul-Haq.

## Emirates haul in big target again

ONE question remains at the end of the ICC Trophy quarter-final group matches in Kenya: how many runs will it take to beat the United Arab Emirates (David Townsend writes)?

Bermuda thought they were safe after scoring 329 for nine from their 50 overs, with Dexter Smith hitting 110 and Dexter Clay punching 71 off 44 balls.

A breezy half-century from the Indian-born Riaz Poonawala, then ensured a brisk start for the Emirates, who had been penalised one over because of slow over-rates. Saleem Raza kept the momentum going with 78 off 55 balls.

With their final pair at the close, the Emirates needed 11 from the final two overs. Ashard Laig, who made 47 not out, guided his side to levelling the scores before a wide took the Emirates to 330 for nine, and victory.

On Friday, the Emirates defeated Canada after being set 279 for victory.

For Kenya, Steve Tikolo scored 95 as the hosts passed Holland's target of 258 for eight with two wickets and one ball to spare.

In the other games, Ireland's first ICC campaign ended with defeat by Canada, and Bangladesh beat Hong Kong by 57 runs.

## Chinese woman fails drug test

BY CRAIG LORD

ZHONG Weyue, of China, has been suspended from swimming competition for two years after producing a positive drugs test, taken when she set two world short-course butterfly records at the World Cup in Peking last month. The records, at 50 and 100 metres butterfly, will not be ratified, and Zhong will be stripped of her World Cup titles and prize-money.

The existing records of Mary T. Meagher, of the United States, which has stood at 58.91sec for 100 metres since 1981, and Angela Kennedy, of Australia, of 26.93sec, will stand. They compare to the 57.71sec and 26.44sec clocked by Zhong.

Fina, the international governing body, confirmed that the positive sample, tested at the International Olympic Committee laboratory in Peking, was for the steroid Medhenderone. The same drug was responsible for the two-year ban being served by Zhou Xin, Xin, who was not a member of the Chinese national team and whose test was taken at the World Cup in Peking in 1993, was the first Chinese swimmer to test positive for drugs. Zhong is the second.

At the world short-course championships at Palma, Mallorca, Fina came under severe pressure from coaches and the media to express its view of allegations of Chinese drugs-

**THE TIMES**

Follow the progress of your 1st XI by using the official ICC statistics on this scorecard.

Only the international matches between England and West Indies (the five one-day international tests and five Test matches) count. Catches and stumpings made by your designated wicketkeeper count as wickets but catches by any other player do not. At the end of the final match, the difference between predicted totals for each player in each category and their actual totals will be measured in points: one point for each run, and 20 points for each wicket, regardless of whether under-estimated or over-estimated. The winner will be the person with the fewest points.

No	Name	Runs	Wickets
<b>WEST INDIES</b>			
01	R C Russell	032	01
02	A J Stewart	118	01
<b>ENGLAND</b>			
03	M A Atherton	215	00
04	G A Hick	187	03
05	N Hussain	010	00
06	M P Maynard	078	00
07	M R Ramprakash	000	00
08	R A Smith	070	00
09	G P Thorpe	034	00
<b>SCOTLAND</b>			
10	A R Caddick	032	04
11	A R C Fraser	000	01
12	A P Iglesidan	000	00
13	C C Lewis	035	05
14	D E Malcolm	024	06
15	I D K Salisbury	000	00
16	P C R Tufnell	002	01
17	S L Watkin	000	05

**MATCHES TO COME:** Mar 2: Third one-day international (St Vincent); Mar 5: Fourth one-day international (Trinidad); Mar 6: Fifth one-day international (Trinidad); Mar 17-22: Second Test (Guyana); Mar 25-30: Third Test (Trinidad); Apr 8-13: Fourth Test (Barbados); Apr 16-21: Fifth Test (Antigua)

Coming next month and running throughout the summer — The Times First Class XI game



# Dance around judging issues becomes a farce



Gooch: good grace

A farcical press conference on Saturday by leading officials of the International Skating Union (ISU) reluctant to concede that the credibility was on the line, it was eventually admitted after almost an hour of evasion that Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean should have won the silver — or possibly the gold medal — in the ice dancing and not bronze.

The ISU will have to discipline, clarify and possibly change its judging procedures in figure skating, ice dancing and short-track speed skating before the next Winter Olympic Games in 1998 if it is not to fall foul of the International Olympic Committee. Public disagreement with arbitrarily-judged events is one thing; cat-calling and booing is another, and damaging to the Games themselves.

Lawrence Demmy, the British chairman of the ISU's ice

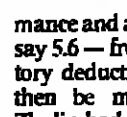
dance sub-committee, conceded that separations, longer than permitted by the regulations, between Oksana Gritskuk and her partner, Evgeny Platov, of Russia, who were awarded the gold, demanded mandatory deductions by the judges. These were not made. Demmy admitted that the standard of judging "would concern me". The deductions, if made, would have given Torvill and Dean the silver medal behind Usov and Zhulin, of Russia, possibly the gold, depending on how place marks were altered by the deductions. The complexity is that the visible points awarded on the board are no more than an indication of where the judges are placing a couple. It is each judge's place positioning that counts.

Furthermore, deductions do not start at 6.0. The judges first must decide the overall competence of the performance and a platform mark — say 5.6 — from which mandatory deductions, if any, must then be made. Usov and Zhulin had no deductions but a lower platform starting point than either the British couple or the other Russians.

The most disturbing aspect of the conference was the refusal of Hans Kutscher, the Austrian referee of the ice dance and head of the judging panel, to concede that anything might be wrong. The admission by Demmy came after Kutscher, questioned on the illegal 13-second separation of Gritskuk and Platov, had asserted: "That is not possible. You are unfair. Judges are entitled to have their own opinion on the



## David Miller finds international officials skating on thin ice in their attempts to slip questioning



David Miller

regulations." The public, not to mention press and television, had a clear opinion of Kutscher and the judges last Monday.

Repeatedly Kutscher now defended the judges by saying: "It is difficult, very difficult, all the couples are so close." Well, that is his problem and his job.

Demmy repeatedly attempted to retreat behind ISU regulations, as though they were sacrosanct — changes in the judging system, such as removing the two top and two bottom marks each time from the nine judges, so as to eliminate extremes and blatant nationalistic prejudice — could "only be made by congress". Why, in that case, are

the senior officials not making such proposals to congress?

"I see nothing wrong with judges going to watch training sessions," Demmy insisted. "They go because they enjoy it." The judges go, it is agreed within skating, to formulate their ideas on who are the leading exponents in any year. In other words, a pecking order is determined before competition. Olaf Poulsen, the president of the ISU, was able to make little comment, for he is from the speed-skating side of the sport.

That is in as much confusion, after these Games, as ice dancing. The IOC executive board is alarmed at the profusion of fouls, disqualifications and open arguments on the rink between officials and competitors. The disqualification of Nicky Gooch, of Britain, after winning a 1,000m silver medal was one of the less controversial incidents; it was accepted by Gooch with

good grace, almost acknowledging that he had fouled. Happily for Gooch, he went on to win a bronze medal in Saturday's 500m final.

The confusion of Wilf O'Reilly's quarter-final elimination from the 500m was damaging to the sport's public relations. Attempts by the British team to have O'Reilly reinstated were always likely to fail. From the ISU's viewpoint, there could never be certainty that the damage to O'Reilly's skates was inflicted on the ice by an opponent. Poulsen implied this Saturday when he stated: "It is the responsibility of the competitor to arrive on the ice with satisfactory equipment." O'Reilly's position was fundamentally different from that of Tonya Harding in the women's figure skating when she was allowed to restart because of a broken lace, though even that concession was challenged by some.

## Curling's double maintains pursuit of record

POINT-TO-POINT  
BY BRIAN BEEL

POLLY Curling's double at the Mendip Farmers point-to-point on Saturday kept her on course to beat Alison Dare's record of 26 winners in a season. However, her tenth success this year was a hollow one as My Mellow Man comfortably took the Members as a 4-1 on favourite, and she then appeared fortunate in the ladies on Tim Forster's Basilea, who looked held when Jane Brackenbury was unseated at the fifteenth by Brief Encounter.

The Windsor Forest was marred by the head and back injuries to Barbara Towler when PSP Spirit fell in the ladies. She was taken to the Millers Hospital in Alderbury but was later transferred to the specialist spinal unit at Oldstock, near Salisbury.

Before this accident, John Macie had been concussed by the fall of Beau Pari in the confined but fortunately his stay in hospital was brief. The race went to Heron's Rock, ridden by Michael Portman, by 12 lengths from the hitherto unbeaten Alafoutou.

Nigel Bloom was denied a treble at the Essex Farmers when Melton Park was beaten in the open by the Simon Andrews-ridden No Rebasse. Melton Park went ahead four out and was just in front at the last, where a mistake cost him the race by 1½ lengths. Bloom had previously won the confined on Mill Bay and was later successful in division one of the maiden on Chatterley.

Paul Hacking had a disappointing day at the Mid Surrey Farmers with Magical Morris his only winner from five rides. Even this, on the 2-1 on favourite, was far from easy as he was run to half a length by Topping-The-Bill.

Hacking pulled up on Toustari, who was going well when he fell in a hunter chase at Folkestone on Wednesday. In the open, his explanation to the stewards, that he believed the odds-on favourite was lame, was accepted.

**RESULTS**

**ESSEX FARMERS** (Castle Of Cornhill): 1. Melton Park (M. Portman), 2. Beau Pari (J. Macie), 3. Heron's Rock (M. Portman), 4. No Rebasse (S. Andrews), 5. Simon Andrews (S. Andrews), 6. Melton Park (M. Portman), 7. Beau Pari (J. Macie), 8. Heron's Rock (M. Portman), 9. No Rebasse (S. Andrews), 10. Simon Andrews (S. Andrews).

**MID SURREY FARMERS** (Castle Of Cornhill): 1. Magical Morris (P. Hacking), 2. Topping-The-Bill (P. Hacking), 3. Toustari (P. Hacking), 4. Chatterley (P. Hacking), 5. Melton Park (M. Portman), 6. Beau Pari (J. Macie), 7. Heron's Rock (M. Portman), 8. No Rebasse (S. Andrews), 9. Simon Andrews (S. Andrews), 10. Melton Park (M. Portman).

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Terry Venables will announce his England team today. He turned up to watch Manchester United play at Upton Park on Saturday, perhaps he was there to watch his captain.

If so, he will be feeling pretty smug, because Paul Ince led the United midfield with Robson — Bryan, not Bobby — fire, linked ingeniously with Cantona and scored the equaliser in the 2-2 draw with West Ham United in the 87th minute when it seemed that United's undefeated streak was over. But because of Ince, it now stretches to 33 games.

All that would be impressive enough in any circumstances, but Ince was treated to one of those fits of irrational hate that so often warm the footballing heart. The crowd went at Ince from the first whistle and greeted his every touch with a volley of hate.

It was their endurance that was so impressive. They did not get bored with the idea for a second. All in all, the hate-drunk crowd showed all the concentration and awareness

## Ince provides perfect answer

Simon Barnes sees justice done after an afternoon of bitter abuse from West Ham supporters



football pitch do not make one eulogise about the beauty and innocence of British youth. One does not expect rationality from a football crowd, but one might have hoped for something a little more courageous and a little less self-serving than the flat refusal of Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, to condemn any aspect of the crowd's behaviour.

But it's no good expecting football crowds to say jolly good show and well played sir. Football is a game of irrational passion and the players must simply get on with it. Ince did that with a will. Nor did he play in a fit of vengeful passion — he played his usual game, committed but intelligent, as if he

had acquired the art of selective deafness. Ince thoroughly earned the right to the last word.

The virtues of Ince are not the most eye-catching ones of the many United possess and, certainly, the afternoon did not begin as a showcase for tenacity. It seemed like just another enthralling episode of United carrying all before them. Giggs took a precautionary rest with a muscle tweak, but United have one or two other good players worth watching.

They went into the lead in six minutes with one of their utterly characteristic swooping goals. Cantona intercepted and fed Keane, Keane shot up the pitch as if launched from a catapult

and Hughes, with two players charging in on him, thought only about ball and goal as the low cross came in.

Neutrals sat back awaiting the usual Manchester United feast, but we had a fight instead and West Ham went toe-to-toe throughout. It might seem that United have forgotten how to lose: the truth is they have forgotten how to defend.

West Ham mixed it up smartly: high balls, lofted cross and passing moves, mainly through Bishop. United were flailing about the flanks, vulnerable on the middle, vulnerable in the air.

Goals from Chapman and Morley, from a high and a low cross from Holmes on the left, made United look distinctly shabby about the edges. They were reduced not so much to disarray as disbelief.

Opinions were divided as to whether their manager, Alex Ferguson, used the word "careless" for his defence or "chaos", the two sounding much the same in Ferguson's clipped Caledonian. Neither was inappropriate and he will use many more words away from the notebooks and tape-recorders. No doubt he will use the defensive display as an Awful Warning.

Neither the epigrammatic style of Cantona nor the wild running of Kanchelskis could put things right at the sharp end, but with passion flowing hot and strong all around the ground, Keane shoved a low cross into the six yard box and Ince did the necessary, celebrating his goal without gloating or histrionics.

Captain my captain? On Saturday, Ince showed he was up to the job.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L. Moseley — T. Beardsley, S. Potts, A. Martin, D. Burrows — M. Morley, M. Allen, I. Seligson, M. Holmes — L. Chapman, T. Morley.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): F. Schofield — P. Parker, S. Bruce, G. Poulter, O. Irwin — S. McClair, R. Keane, J. Cantona, B. Thompson, T. Higgins, P. Ince, A. Kanchelskis (sub: O. Dublitz, 85) — E. Cantona, M. Hughes. Referee: A. Willis.



Ince remains dignified amid ugly scenes at West Ham

## Tottenham losing run extended in thriller

Chelsea ..... 4  
Tottenham Hotspur ..... 3

By Keith Pike

THE unthinkable is fast becoming the inevitable for Tottenham Hotspur and Osvaldo Ardiles, their beleaguered manager, every defeat dragging them deeper into a relegation fight they seem ill-equipped to win. This one at Stamford Bridge yesterday, their seventh in succession, will have hurt more than any of the others.

Leading 2-0 after 19 minutes and with Gary Mabbutt, their captain, returning to lead by courageous example from midfield, they surrendered the advantage and, having pulled level through one penalty, squandered another. A point was still theirs for the taking



Sedgley: first goal

until, with the match deep into injury time, Chelsea were awarded a spot kick of their own to settle the match in their favour.

It was a breathless, bizarre game that turned emotions this way and that, on the pitch and on the terraces. At the end of it, Mabbutt trudged off his features a mixture of disbelief and despair. This was a reintroduction to the perils of the Premiership he can hardly have envisaged.

An extraordinary first half had reinforced the view that, when under pressure, neither of these teams can defend with any confidence. Tottenham, having raced into a two-goal lead, promptly lost it. Kharine had already dealt unconvincingly with Tottenham's early raids, then saved brilliantly from Scott's downward header, when Sedgley

beat him at the far post, getting in on the end of a flowing Tottenham move that allowed Anderson to cross deep from the right. Their second arrived within a minute as Austin's centre found Dozzell unmarked ten yards out.

Chelsea were in disarray, their passing game floundering on a succession of mistakes. The only time they managed to put a move together it was to work the ball back, bafflingly, from the Tottenham end to their own. Yet, within the space of 11 minutes, three goals had flown past Walker to turn the match on its head.

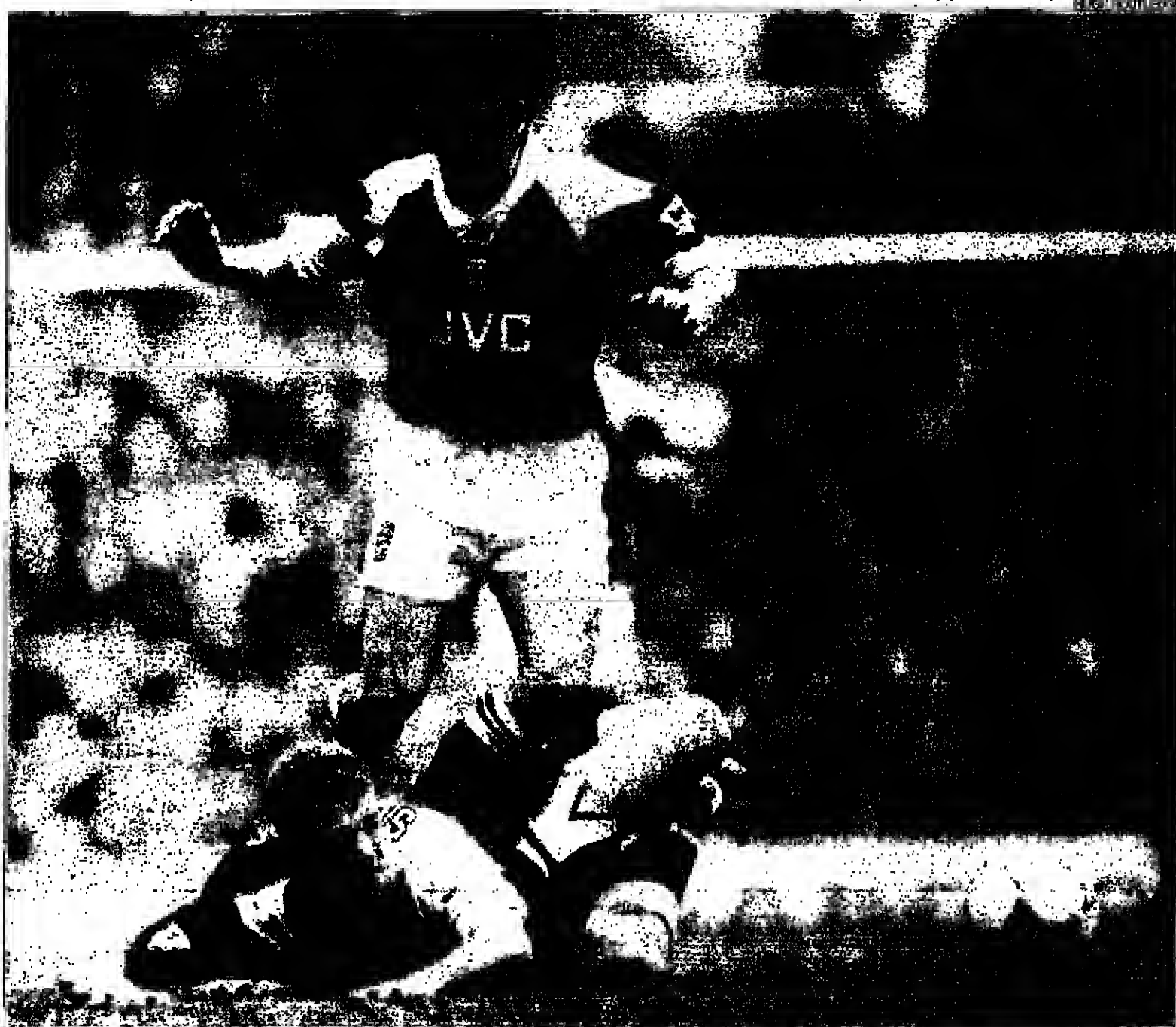
The first owed everything to Peacock's intelligent pass inside to Donaghy, whose first goal of the season went in via Walker's near post. But there was no doubting the quality of the second, Kjeldberg heading down Wise's corner and Stein turning like a top to fire home, and even less Tottenham were able to do about Chelsea's third, the best of the half. Wise's pass, floated into Spencer's path, was magical, and the finish an emphatic half-volley that threatened to lift the net off its moorings.

There could have been more. Walker later tipped Peacock's shot on to a post, and Anderson was denied an obvious penalty when Clarke upended him. But, after Walker's fingertips had kept them in contention by denying Bury, Tottenham were to be awarded two inside nine minutes.

Both were unarguable, first when Johnson handled Anderson's corner under pressure from Scott, and then when Kharine upended Rosenthal as he burst clear. Gray converted the first but hit the second 100 per cent straight and allowed Kharine to save.

A draw would have been just but a Chelsea victory was assured when Austin sent Peacock sprawling, Stein making it 12 goals in 14 games with an emphatically-struck penalty. Their survival chances look brighter.

CHelsea (3-5-2): O'Hare — S. Clarke, J. Rosenthal, E. Johnson — C. Bury (sub: O. Hopton, 80min), E. Newton, G. Peacock, O. Wise, M. Donaghy — M. Stein, J. Spencer. Tottenham (4-4-2): Walker — O. Austin, S. Mathercock, N. Scott, J. Edwards (sub: S. Campbell, 87) — G. Macleod — O. Anderson, V. Sarver, J. Sedgley — R. Prosser (sub: J. Dozzell, sub: A. Gray, 53). Referee: J. Lloyd.



The grounded Shearer, who endured a frustrating afternoon at Highbury on Saturday, watches the ball roll away after a challenge by Winterburn

## Arsenal playing for highest stakes

Arsenal ..... 1  
Blackburn ..... 0

By Andrew Longmore

TALK of summer sales was silenced by Arsenal's first league victory in six matches, but only further progress in Europe will convince many at Highbury that there is still shelf-life left in this present side. On Wednesday, Arsenal play the first leg of the quarter-final of the European Cup Winners' Cup against Torino and anyone not understanding the importance of the occasion had only to interpret the final paragraph of George Graham's programme notes to find clarification.

"Disregard any stories you've read about a massive clear-out coming soon," Graham wrote. "I'm not likely to clear out our squad while we're still in Europe." But if they go out? Even the Arsenal dressing-room might be able to work that one out. Heads will roll, signalling the end of one of the most successful eras in the club's

distinguished history, and the jeers which greeted the FA Cup defeat by Bolton earlier this month will echo down the marble halls of Highbury during the off-season. One or two regulars might not be around to wear the new hooped red-and-white socks next season.

For the moment, after a typically cautious but deserved win, Arsenal will travel to Turin with the acclamation of the Blackburn manager ringing in their ears instead. "They were sharper, quicker and stronger than we were," Dalglish said.

Dalglish has always had problems with Arsenal's methods, even when he was with Liverpool, but once again he was drawn into a battle of defensive patience which could have only one outcome. Blackburn were sterile when they needed to be bold, Arsenal were cautious as ever and the crowd, who had suspected the worst when Ian Wright was left out through injury, knew their fate long before the electronic scoreboard flashed up a message to a fan from Boringdon. Apart from the odd touch by

Merson, who punished Blackburn's decision not to mark him by scoring the winner, flair was buried beneath an enveloping canopy of commitment and organisation. The lumbering Jensen won his tag match with the shaven-headed Batty by a fall and a submission, effectively cutting off a supply line for Shearer, who had already been deprived of his usual partner when Gallacher was carried off with a broken leg midway through the first half.

With Sherwood injured, Batty otherwise occupied and the disappointing Le Saux well policed by Parlour, Shearer endured a frustrating afternoon in the clutches of Bould and Adams. A solitary header and a constant supply of back-chat were his main contributions to the match. Had Le Saux enjoyed the space given to Winterburn, his opposite number, the outcome might have been different. But Parlour was pushed up to counter the threat and exposed Le Saux's suspect defensive qualities — and maybe his England pretensions — with embarrassing ease.

Indeed, of those hoping to be part of the brave new England squad, announced today by Terry Venables, only Tim Flowers looked the part. He pulled off a flying save to deny Smith 20 minutes from the end as Arsenal, aware of Blackburn's lack of ambition, belatedly pushed forward. Blackburn's reprieve proved only temporary. Moments later, Smith's left-foot cross was slammed home by Merson to end a run of five consecutive draws in the league.

Even then, Blackburn could not summon the nerve or the sinew to mount a final charge. But slender victory was enough to send Graham into flights of fancy. "We played attractive, effective and passing football," he said. He even hoped the whole of England would get behind Arsenal on Wednesday. Now that really is the height of optimism.

ARSENAL (4-3-3): O'Sullivan — I. Dixon, A. Adams, S. Bould, N. Winterburn — P. Dunn, J. Jensen, P. Merson — R. Parlour, A. Smith, K. Campbell. BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — H. Berris, O. May, K. Merson (sub: A. Morrison, 80min), G. Le Saux — S. Peleley, O. Batty, N. Marshall, J. Wilson — A. Shearer, R. Gallacher (sub: A. Adenrele, 20). Referee: J. Worral.

## Kinnear's bluster a sideshow to striker's brilliance

Southampton ..... 1  
Wimbledon ..... 0

By Michael Henderson

THERE is a new buzz around The Dell these days. It is the familiar alto squeak that belongs to a man who has been refereed with the best of them, most recently after defeat at Oldham. Southampton supporters may or may not be thrilled by his appointment but what would amateur mimics do without the likes of Alan Ball?

Ball is a pretty good impressionist himself, though not in the Pissarro class. Since he retired as a player ten years ago, he has been impersonating, none too convincingly, a successful football manager. On his moderate record he is fortunate to be in charge of any professional club, let alone a leading one.

Blackpool, Colchester, Stoke and Exeter have all drawn from his expertise, if that is what it is called. Portsmouth alone drew profit, winning promotion to the first division with their unlikely team of '87. Where do Southampton imagine they are going with Ball and Lawrie McMenamy?

One can be reasonably sure that Southampton will not go down, although they contributed little to this lamentable match, besides the brilliant goal. The scorer, predictably, was Matthew Le Tissier, who flicked up and volleyed a free kick from almost 30 yards with the ease of a man picking cherries. The rest of the game was bilge.

Le Tissier had been fouled by Dean Blackwell, the man delegated to follow him wherever he went. Blackwell fulfilled that task, to the point of providing a mirror image, but he paid for a spot of holding 15 minutes from time.

This time, the winning came not from Ball but from Joe Kinnear. The Wimbledon manager accused referees, and by implication Mr Gallacher, of "trying to take the law into their own hands". The rotten bouncer! Any day now policemen will try to apprehend robbers.

For sheer sophistry, Kinnear was hard to beat. "I don't think we have had a decent referee, that has gone our way, all season," he said. Why not? Wimbledon are an even-tempered side, not given to serious foul play or absurd shows of wounded pride. It should be a pleasure to handle such mature, well-rounded adults.

By now, Kinnear was scrapping away on his fiddle like Hefetz. He denounced the "cowards" in the media, usually "failed players and managers" who couldn't handle the pressure. This was assumed to refer to Brian Clough, who has recently been critical of Wimbledon, and was, of course, a failure as a manager.

Nobody should take his bluster seriously. If punishment is necessary, he should be ordered to referee a match involving, say, Manchester United, Newcastle or Bolton Wanderers: the sort of team that respects the ball. Then send a referee to pass comment on his game. "I don't know. Some of these managers, they just want to take the law into their own hands..."

SOUTHAMPTON (3-2-3): O. Bassett — J. Kinnear, S. Wood, K. Morrison, F. Smith, S. Charlton — J. Houghton, N. Middleton — C. Mitchell (sub: P. Allen, 75min), M. Le Tissier, J. Davis. WIMBLEDON (3-2-2): H. Rogers — W. Barton, S. Fitzpatrick, J. Scates, O. Blackwell, S. McHugh, G. Blair (sub: G. Doherty, 79) — V. Jones, R. Earle — D. Holdsworth, A. Cairns (sub: G. Bennett, 79). Referee: O. Gallagher.

### PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Manchester Utd	29	63	+32	DWWD
2 Blackburn	30	61	+21	WWDL
3 Arsenal	30	51	+18	DDDD
4 Newcastle	29	48	+21	WLLW
5 Liverpool	30	47	+9	WDLW
6 Leeds	28	46	+12	DDLL
7 Aston Villa	28	45	+9	WDWD
8 Sheffield Wed	29	44	+15	WLWWD
9 Norwich	30	44	+10	DDDD
10 QPR	27	39	+6	LDLWL
11 Coventry	31	38	-5	LDWLL
12 West Ham	29	37	-10	DLDD
13 Ipswich	29	36	-6	DLDD
14 Wimbledon	29	36	-8	WDLWL
15 Everton	30	36	-8	WLWDD
16 Tottenham	30	36	-4	LLLL
17 Southampton	29	30	-9	WWLWW
18 Chelsea	28	29	-9	DDLL
19 Manchester City	30	29	-15	WDLW
20 Oldham	29	26	-23	LLDWW
21 Sheffield Utd	29	23	-21	DLDDL
22 Swindon	31	23	-37	WLLDL

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

## Improved fortune Lee's greatest ally

Manchester City ..... 2  
Swindon Town ..... 1

By Peter Ball

EVENTS at Maine Road on Saturday, like those at Highbury and Upton Park, provided confirmation of the season's racing certainties. Results in London suggested that Manchester United will win the championship; the game in Manchester that Swindon Town will be relegated.

But it had nothing decisive to say about the fate of Manchester City. After they had clawed an undeserved victory against the bottom club, there was a lot of optimism. Even before the game, Francis Lee had repeated his claim that the team was too good to be relegated.

After it, David Rocastle, who again made nonsense of his struggles at Leeds with a fine display culminating in the winning goal, went further. "I know it sounds crazy to say this," Rocastle said, "but we will be a real force next season when we get everybody fit."

It does sound crazy. The best reason for thinking that City might survive is that last week their luck turned dramatically. On Tuesday a missed penalty by Dean Saunders nine minutes from time brought them an unexpected point at Aston Villa.

On Saturday their luck was even stronger. Three minutes after taking the lead, poor Swindon saw a perfectly good second goal disallowed.

That sounds dangerously unequivocal, but the only person in the ground to spot an infringement was the referee. Even the City defenders, who would normally be the first to protest at any hint of illegality, had no complaints as Forjot outpumped Vonk to head past Dibble.

John Gorman, the Swindon manager, has cried wolf too many times this season for him to be regarded as a voice of dispassionate objectivity, but on this occasion it was hard not to agree with his analysis. "If we had gone 2-0 up we would have won without a shadow of doubt," he said.

With the crowd already on Alan Kernaghan's back, a second strike then would surely have seen the criticism become more vocal and more general, and City fall apart. Instead they rallied, none more so than Vonk.

Left standing, literally, as Forjot accepted Mutch's astute pass and sold him and Dibble an outrageous dummy to score his eighth goal in six games, Vonk was to recover to lead City's resistance.

His example was followed by Kernaghan as Swindon put City under siege in the second half. By then City were ahead. Horlock turned Edgill's driven cross into his own goal for the equaliser before half-time, and the winner came just after the interval.

A fine goal it was, but one that again elicited sympathy for Swindon. With Moncur orchestrating their passing, Summerbee and Bodin dangerous out wide, and Mutch an unselfish, talented front man, their football is admirable in many ways, but good football means defending solidly as well as passing the ball around neatly, and Swindon are lacking in that basic part of the game. Sometimes their defenders look as if they would be hard pressed to hold out against a decent Diadora League team.

On this occasion, Griffiths was allowed to receive a long ball near the corner flag, turn as Taylor stood off him and lay it into Rocastle's path. Rocastle collected it unhindered, shimmed past a defender and rolled it beyond Digby for a goal worthy to win any match.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): A. Dibble — R. Edgill, M. Vonk, A. Kernaghan, T. Pheasant — O. Rocastle (sub: A. H. Smith, 87min), S. Jackson, G. Forjot (sub: C. Shutt, 45), S. Simpson — C. Griffiths, M. Summerbee. SWINDON TOWN (4-4-2): F. Digby — A. Whitbread, T. Forster, S. Taylor, R. Forster — N. Summerbee, L. Edgill, J. Moncur, P. Bodin (sub: M. Ling, 85) — A. Mutch, J. Forjot (sub: F. McFadden, 67). Referee: P. Foulkes.















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## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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**Student Services Project Officer**

£25,000 (London based)

The British Postgraduate Medical Federation provides education and training for doctors, dentists and healthcare professionals from the UK and overseas. We are constantly striving to enhance the services we offer to our current, former and prospective students and are looking for a dynamic individual who can lead an important one year project.

The Student Services Project Officer will work with the institutes that make up the Federation in order to:

- investigate and evaluate different options for funding and carry out negotiations
- review and evaluate student welfare systems, suggest enhancements and assist with their implementation
- work with each institute to develop an alumni network.

The ideal candidate will have excellent organisational and negotiating skills, the ability to work with commercial organisations, academic staff and students and, most importantly, exceptional problem-solving skills. If you have all of these, preferably combined with a knowledge of residential property leasing or student accommodation, we would be delighted to hear from you.

This is a one year fixed-term contract which could alternatively be offered as a one year secondment.

For a full job description and details of the BPMF, please contact the Assistant Federation Secretary's office on 071-831 6222 ext 152.

Applications in writing, accompanied by a CV and the names of two referees, should be sent to the Assistant Federation Secretary, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 9 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ. The closing date for applications is 9 March 1994.

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**University Of Dundee**

**DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

The University wishes to appoint a senior manager to lead its Information Technology Services. This recently created grouping, with a staff of around 55, brings together support for computer users and computer networks, administrative information systems and telecommunications; it also includes media services and a video production service. The person appointed will provide the vision to develop and implement the University's information technology strategy and the leadership to exploit the potential of these combined services.

You will be professionally qualified and will have substantial expertise in the delivery of information technology services, as well as excellent management and communication skills. Experience in an academic environment would be advantageous, but is not essential.

The Director will be appointed on the professional-equivalent salary scale (minimum £30,358).

Further particulars from, and applications in the form of a CV (10 copies), with the names and addresses of 3 referees to, Personnel Services, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN. Tel: (0382) 344015. Please quote reference EST/13/94T.

Closing date: 25 March 1994.

The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer

**SUB-LIBRARIAN**

Applications are invited from graduates with professional qualifications in librarianship and/or information science for the above post. The responsibilities of the appointment include the provision of the reference and information services of the University Library principally to the Faculty of Engineering. Experience of such services would be regarded as desirable, and a degree in engineering, science or a related discipline an advantage, although applicants with other qualifications and experience will be considered.

Duties will include the management and operation of a range of facilities that involve automated systems, microcomputers and other aspects of information technology, as well as participation in the devising of operational policy in relation to library services and liaison with the academic departments of the University.

Salary in range: £21,255 - £25,107 per annum.

For application form and further particulars (Ref. 19/94) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Applications Closing Date: 14th March 1994.

The University now incorporates the former Jordanhill College as its Faculty of Education. The University is an equal opportunities employer.

**UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE**

**LECTURESHIPS**

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

in association with Mansfield College

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Applicants are invited for the above post (tenable from 1 October 1994 or as soon thereafter as possible). Stipend according to age on the scale £13,601 - £26,803 per annum. The successful candidate may be offered a tutorial fellowship by Mansfield College for which additional emoluments would be available.

Further particulars (containing details of the duties and full range of emoluments and allowances attaching to both the university and the college posts) may be obtained from the secretary of the Faculty Board of Modern History, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD. Tel: 01865 270157, fax 01865 270708. The closing date is Monday, 11 April 1994.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**LECTURESHIPS**

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

in association with Hertford College

**All Souls (G.M. Young) University Lectureship in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century English Literature**

Applications are invited for the above post (tenable from 1 October 1994 or as soon thereafter as possible). Stipend according to age on the scale £13,601 - £26,803 per annum. The successful candidate may be offered a tutorial fellowship by Hertford College for which additional emoluments would be available.

Further particulars (containing details of the duties and full range of emoluments and allowances attaching to both the university and the college posts) may be obtained from the secretary of the Faculty Board of English Language and Literature, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD. Tel: 01865 270157. The closing date is Friday, 8 April 1994.

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**UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM**

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC LECTURESHIP**

Required from 1 October 1994, to contribute to the Department's teaching in both western and non-western music. This role will include leading the first-year teaching in Musical Techniques (harmony and counterpoint).

Salary will be within the range £13,601 - £18,855 pa on the Lecturer Grade A Scale.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 3HP (tel: 091 374 3158). Closing date for completed applications is Friday 25 March 1994. Please quote reference A296.

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**The University of Liverpool**

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Applications are invited for the newly-established Jeffers Chair of Genito-Urinary Medicine which is funded initially by the Jeffers Research Trust. The successful candidate will be expected to have a strong research background in HIV and related infections, preferably in developing countries. Candidates should preferably be medically qualified, with a higher degree. The appointee will be given an honorary consultant contract at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital Trust. Salary will be within the appropriate scale for professional staff.

The Chair is an exciting new development in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Genito-Urinary Medicine and offers many opportunities for innovative research, particularly with the School of Tropical Medicine.

Informal enquiries may be made to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Michael Ome on 051-796 4260, fax 051-706 2601.

Quote ref: A/788T.

Closing date: 31 March, 1994.

Applications, together with the names of three referees should be received by the Director Personnel (A), The University of Liverpool, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

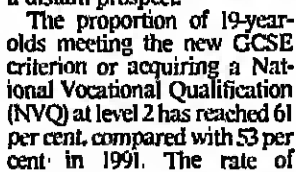
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# GCSE: setting the sights high

When the advisory council overseeing the targets published its first progress report last Friday, Peter Davis, the

Young engineers being put through their paces in Leeds almost 30 years ago. Now there are fears that training quality has been sacrificed to quantity



With 37 per cent of 21-year-olds now gaining at least two A-levels or an NVQ at level 3, the prospect of reaching a 50 per cent pass rate by the turn of the century is even closer. This will be one of the targets

### LIFETIME LEARNING

- ☐ All employees to take part in training or development activities by 1996.
- ☐ 50 per cent of the workforce aiming for NVQs, or units towards them, by 1996.
- ☐ 50 per cent of the workforce qualified to at least NVQ 3 (two A-levels or equivalent) by 2000.
- ☐ 50 per cent of medium to large organisations to be "Investors in People" by 1996.

So is the picture really as rosy as it seems? British ambitions still do not match those of the French, who are aiming for 80 per cent of their young people to pass a *baccalauréat* (equivalent to

---

Alan Smithers, professor of education at Manchester University and a leading critic of vocational qualifications, is more concerned about the effect on the quality of learning. "I worry that in the race to make ourselves as qualified as other countries in Europe, we may produce confetti qualifications. There will be pressure to lower standards if all the attention is on quantity rather than quality."

Ability and willingness to help with out-of-classroom activities, especially at weekends, an asset

Full details can be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary.  
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# Not afraid to get their hands dirty

**H**ailed as the wonder subject that would revolutionise English education, technology has turned into the Cinderella of the national curriculum, unloved and unwanted in many of the schools it was designed to help. Because it was to be compulsory for all, from the very brightest to the less able, technology was supposed to lead to the final breakdown of the academic and vocational divide at the heart of British education.

There was confusion even then, however, as to what technology should cover and how it should be defined. The old habits died hard, with the traditional craft teachers complaining that standards would fall as there was less emphasis on the skills of, for example, woodwork or metalwork.

The definition that finally emerged in 1989 was that pupils should identify a problem or need, design a solution, make whatever was required and then evaluate the outcome in aesthetic, commercial and environmental terms.

Many secondary schools found it all too much and were never happy with the detailed curriculum. Their arguments appear to have won the day. Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's senior education adviser, is reviewing the curriculum. A consultation document will be issued in the spring and the new curriculum should be in place for September 1996. The new curriculum is certain to be leaner and less demanding than the original, and

**Technology is an unexpected success in independent schools, where it is not a compulsory subject. David Tytler reports**

until it has been introduced, Sir Ron has persuaded the Government that technology should not be compulsory for 14-year-olds this year or next.

Ironically, technology is thriving in the schools that were not bound by the curriculum. Technology has never been compulsory in independent schools, but it has generally proved popular, and has not attracted the same sort of criticism that has been around in state schools: that it should be followed only by the non-academic.

In addition to their freedom, independent schools have always been able to select what they do from the curriculum. They also have bigger and better resources, enabling them to work in a variety of materials and often in modern, purpose-built teaching areas.

Anthony Millard, head of £10,000-a-year Giggleswick, in Settle, north Yorkshire, is a keen supporter of technology. He says: "Technology is essentially creative

and needs the freedom of development which we can bring to it."

Giggleswick opened a new technology centre in 1988 which has facilities for work in metal, wood and plastic, with alcove studios for other work, including computer-aided design. All pupils are taught technology and 65 per cent go on to GCSE, of whom 75 per cent gain A grades. Design technology is clearly popular at Giggleswick, with 45 students in a sixth form of 120 taking it at A level.

Holloway, head of the department, says: "Students work with a professional studio atmosphere. The whole department is geared towards problem-solving in a structured and realistic context. Pupils are encouraged to show initiative and imagination, without losing sight of the traditional values of practicality and craftsmanship."

The art and craft courtyard at Horris Hill, an £8,370-a-year prep school for 150 boys in Newbury,

Berkshire, contains an art centre with pottery and kiln room, two science laboratories, two carpentry rooms, a new and larger electric train room and a photographic darkroom. The £400,000 development has been spread over three years. The new wing, which has just been opened, contains a new and larger printing room with chess and computer rooms above, and an observatory and electronic weather station.

Horris Hill prepares many boys for the academic rigours of Eton and Winchester, but Malcolm Innes, the head, says: "It is important that we cater for all the boys here. If they are able to excel at something it takes the pressure off them. We do timetable some lessons, but most of the work takes place in the boys' own time."

Rosanne Randle, head of the £4,000-a-year Dame Alice Harpur School for girls in Bedford, says that although technology is not part of their core curriculum it is studied by all their younger pupils and is a very popular option for 14-year-olds. It is offered as an A-level. The school is just about to complete a new £1 million block containing a theatre and technology suite.

Freedom and facilities, though, are not all it takes to be successful in technology. As Mr Millard says: "You can only be successful if you have a talented and committed head of department. If you have an arid and bureaucratic person you will never be successful, no matter how good the facilities."



Pottery is on the technology curriculum at the independent Manchester Grammar School

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## OPERA page 34

Three cheers for an excellent revival of Handel's *Ariodante* at Welsh National Opera

## ARTS

## BOOKS page 35

Vladimir Zhirinovsky: why the jokes about Mad Vlad's Russia are not so funny after all

## Inspiration from the ice

Commissioning a new work from Christopher Dean is just one of the populist planks in English National Ballet's new artistic agenda. Debra Craine reports

Derek Deane is clearly a man with his finger on the popular pulse. Who else would commission a new ballet from one half of Torvill and Dean? Who else would undertake to create an original full-length work based on the entire story of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*? And who else would sanction turning Giselle into a flapper-era chambermaid?

Such is the imaginative populism of English National Ballet's artistic director, who, having taken over the struggling company almost one year ago, believes he has found the way to restore its credibility. "The company was in danger of getting stale, of being bored," he admits. "So over the next few years I would like to bring in a situation where the company does more diverse repertoire."

They don't come more diverse — or more popular — than Christopher Dean. With his Olympic exploits finally behind him, and having apparently conquered all the ice has to offer him, the skating star is now planning a new career as a ballet choreographer. His first one-act work for the stage — subject still to be decided — will be premiered by English National Ballet in the spring of 1995.

"I didn't have to persuade him but I had to give him the courage to do it," says Deane. "Christopher has always wanted to do it and he's thrilled that I've asked him, but quite naturally he's nervous about it because it's a great undertaking for some-

body who has just been on the ice all the time." Why did the ENB director decide to approach Dean, an unknown quantity in the dance world? "I went to him because he has an original talent and a talent we don't see very often. Of course it's an offbeat idea but it's an accumulation of a lot of things. He does do ballet classes, he's got a great musical knowledge. I think he's got enough background to sustain doing it. It's a very good experiment; and he's famous." And fame, as

"I went to him because he has an original talent"

Deane well knows, is a powerful draw at the box office. Meanwhile, Deane is hoping that the radical Swedish dancer-maker Mats Ek will prove a similar attraction: negotiations are continuing for a new Ek ballet on the 1995 spring tour. "Although the company are going in a majorly classical direction, I want them to work with choreographers they haven't had the opportunity or the inclination to have worked for before. People like Ek, Pina Bausch, Christopher Dean."

To that list add Derek Deane himself. First, next October (opening in Southampton), comes his new *Giselle* — or at least a restag-

ing of the 1841 Romantic classic completely rethought by the theatre designer Charles Cusick Smith. The choreography will be all that is left of the traditional version.

"Charles has set it in Austria in the 1920s in an amazing huge hotel where Giselle is a chambermaid and her mother is the housekeeper and Hilariion is the gamekeeper. Albrecht makes his entry in a car; his chauffeur hides Albrecht's sword and cloak in the boot. I was so excited by Charles's ideas I couldn't say no to anything."

In the second act, in the woods, he's gone very Bram Stoker with it. It's like an atom bomb has just blown up an area. I wanted *Wuthering Heights*, I wanted madness in the second act, the area to be as mad as the jilted brides, and he's picked up on all that."

In keeping with Deane's agenda for ENB of "one big new creation every year", 1995 will see his original choreography for *Alice*, with music by Tchaikovsky, arranged by Carl Davis. "It's going to run along the classical lines of something like a *Sleeping Beauty* — big corps de ballet numbers, the grand pas de deux, the variations, the codas. The story lends itself fabulously to diversifications with all those wonderful characters: the caterpillar, the people who paint the roses red. And your Carabosse is your Red Queen. "We put out feelers about Alice running for a week on its own in theatres and everybody grabbed it. They were so happy they weren't getting *The Sleeping Beauty* again."



Balletic grace: Christopher Dean partners Jayne Torvill in their Olympic classic, *Bolero*

THEATRE  
Coming out the delicate way

Picture Me Attic, Wimbledon

IF THIS is a "coming-out" play — and in the programme its author, Alex Summers, says he wrote it after a friend acknowledged his homosexuality — it is not the kind we have come to know and fear. There is no strident polemicalising, no politicking. Indeed, this gentle, delicate piece might best be described as a "sitting nervously in the closet and very nearly finding the courage to peek through a chink" play.

There are two characters only, an upper-class art collector called Christopher and a musician of working-class origins, Sandy. Their meeting, like several of Summers' other inventions, is not quite plausible. Suppose a tearful young man turned up on your doorstep with a black eye and a cello, proclaiming himself your brother's rejected room-mate. Suppose you were so repressed, so wintry that by comparison with you the protagonist of *Death in Venice* seems a flamboyant queen. Would you proceed to let him stay for weeks, and all without asking his surname?

Well, that is what Christopher does, with results that are not exactly predictable. Christopher shows Sandy his pictures, and the sharp candour of the boy's responses convinces the collector that he is a sort of job savant. Mutual affection grows between them, but it is unrecognised by either. And each goes on believing that the other thinks poorly of him, even when he has acknowledged the intensity

of his emotions to himself. It is a gay version of a traditionally English love story: all reticence, physical self-denial and frustration. Not everything adds up. I was amused by the moment when Sandy says he is afraid he may be "positive" and Christopher replies, "Oh really, positive about what?" Isn't the older man's innocence a bit extreme? Has he been living in the sexual equivalent of Ulan Bator? How can he not know until his brother's death that he was gay and that his last, debilitating illness was AIDS? And can we really believe that Sandy, an ace musician, would be homeless and helpless?

Still, there is quality enough in both the writing and the acting of Richard Osborne's cast to incline you to overlook such oddities. Summers can turn a deft line and, though he does not always resist the temptation to gild his Christopher's aversion and snobism, he can create a living character too. Tony Casement's Sandy has a touchy, nervy reality and his host something more. Andrew Hawkins's Christopher may be staid and grumpy, precious and emotionally cut-off, but he knows it and ruses it: the Englishman trapped by his Englishness.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

TELEVISION REVIEW: Lynne Truss follows the clues in *Anna Lee* on ITV

## A case for the dream girl

In many a classic detective story, there comes an important moment when the eager sleuth is called off prematurely. Ostensibly, the crime has been solved and the boss (or client) satisfied. "You have your answer, detective sergeant," says the inspector, with an air of finality. "Our man plainly killed himself by falling backwards repeatedly on to a kitchen knife. So that's that. Everyone in my office in five minutes for new assignments."

"But surely..." objects the detective. "I know you're unhappy," adds the boss, "but the case is closed." The detective's eyes harden with resolve. "Not for me, it isn't," he whispers, grimly. The point is, they don't always ring true, these scenes. "Not for me, it isn't," muttered the beautiful Imogen Stubbs last night in *Dupe*, the first of an inoffensive six-part ITV series *Anna Lee*, in which she plays tomboyish private eye Anna against a background of west London warm summer nights.

She is an impulsive girl, admittedly — she excitedly bought an ice-cream while out walking with her boss, and sucked it before paying — yet it was still peculiar that she should want to proceed with the Case of Dumpty Doe.

You see, Anna had successfully located a missing person (Doe), just hours before this Miss Dumpty ostensibly died in a car crash. As far as Anna Lee was concerned, however, there was nothing suspicious. But still, "Not for me, it isn't," said Anna. Possibly she glanced at her watch and realised that, thus far, the

meagre story would never stretch to two hours.

Actually, *Dupe* was pretty well plotted. A fairly simple crime — the pirating of movies for video export — was uncovered slowly and thoughtfully, cleverly feeding the audience ambiguous messages. In the opening sequence, Miss Dumpty emerged from a lift in a lonely corridor and was shoved against a wall by a sinister white-haired bloke (who, of course, later turned out to be a good guy). His words were, "The way you're going, you're gonna get hurt, or maybe worse!" which looked like a simple threat. In the context of what later transpired, however, it was more an expression of avuncular concern.

When first piloted a year or so ago, *Anna Lee* looked terribly unpromising. While nothing of the pilot story remains in my memory, I can still distinctly visualise Miss Stubbs vaulting into her Sunbeam Alpine convertible with a flourish of micro-skirt and stocking top, so vivid was the image. Let's hope that doesn't catch on. I remember thinking,

Mercifully, in the transition to series, the wardrobe has changed, and Anna now wears feminine boysew — embroidered waistcoats, high-waisted black jeans — to spectacular effect. If only the dreary "Briefly Security" agency set-up had also been dumped. Who can believe in the wooden "Commander"? Who thinks the prissy secretary Beryl is funny? Some-

times family entertainment values can be taken too far.

But family entertainment is surely the key to *Anna Lee*. "Anna Lee" is suspiciously close to "Wanna Be", and if looked at objectively, it is quite clear (despite her origin in grown-up crime novels) that Anna Lee is a heroine straight from a girls' comic. Watch out for Anna Lee annuals next Christmas. With her snazzy Kensington flat, her independence, her sexiness, her comic landlord (Brian Glover), her Sunbeam Alpine and her blonde fringe glowing in golden evening light beside sparkling duck ponds, she is the dream figure every schoolgirl has a crush on. Watch out Sindy, old pal: your days may be numbered.

## SUNSET OLD, SUNSET NEW

LONDON  
Adelphi Theatre  
March 8 and  
April 12

ON March 12 *Sunset Boulevard* will close. On April 12 it will open again in the award-winning Los Angeles production. During the closure many changes to the set and direction will be implemented. Andrew MacBean, the resident director of *Sunset*, will give a talk about the changes after the performance on March 8. Then, after the April 12 performance, he will discuss the changes made. Tickets, to both the performances and talks, are £5. Tel 071-431 1428

National Theatre  
Feb 28; Mar 7-9, 7-15pm  
JOHN Thaw stars in *The Absence of War*. David Hare's play about politics and politicians. Tickets £16.50 (normally £20), including a glass of wine or soft drink. Tel 071-928 2252

Sadler's Wells  
Spanish Arts Festival  
Mar 16 (Compania Nacional de Danza); Mar 24 (Compania Nacional de Teatro Clásical)  
Tickets £14 (normally £17.50). Tel 071-278 8916

Young Vic  
March 1-12  
TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £10, £5 concessions) to see *Othello*, a new version of the Oedipus myth. Tel 071-928 6363

STIRLING  
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Mar 7-12  
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THE TIMES  
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BUXTON  
Opera House  
Mar 16-19  
£2 off tickets (normally £7.50 to £11.50) for *A Handful of Dust*. Tel 0298 72190

SWANSEA  
Grand Theatre  
March 3-5  
SAVE £3 on tickets (normally £10-£15) to see *Mozart's The Magic Flute* and *Requiem*. Tel 0792 425715

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THE TIMES  
TO BE INCLUDED IN MARCH'S GUIDE PLEASE CALL 071 481 9994



Imogen Stubbs and Anthony Newley in *Anna Lee*







# Why the jokes about Mad Vlad's Russia are on us

I don't know Jonathan Steele personally. From his Moscow reporting and from this fine book, I would expect him to be the sort of serious Guardian journalist who wins and deserves the respect and approval of other serious Guardian journalists. His hopes and fears for Russia are *Guardian* hopes and fears. My own are naturally rather different, perhaps more hesitant, certainly less securely based in knowledge. He is conscientious, hard working, truthful, Russian-speaking (I assume — he doesn't boast of it). He is brave, enterprising, in his way shrewd, neither glib nor over-optimistic, mildly left-wing.

He speaks thus with approval of things like "participatory democracy" and "revolutions from below", which some of us are inclined to dread. He allows that democracy, like spring, will come late and slowly to Russia — decades rather than days. Yet he resolutely maintains that it is the answer to all Russia's problems, including some which it might grievously exacerbate.

Among these are fearful economic hardships and difficulties. These can in his view only be solved by the Russians coming together democratically "to plan their future". All "layers" must be involved — think of that! Steele hopes for "industrial democracy" and "social consensus" — not recipes for dynamic economic progress. He even concedes en passant that democracy might make the hardships worse. He

nonetheless sees democratic institutions as the road to a market economy. The old men in China see them rather as an obstacle to be swept aside, and prosper mightily in consequence.

Steele is by no means a flashy nor even a very vivid writer, though his accounts of Russian coups, aborted or not, and other convulsions are admirably clear and thrilling. His characterisations are impersonal as a demob suit. General Kuzmin is "an unusually tall man with a ramrod figure", "grim looking". The great Kuznetsov was "gruff". Vladimir Grinev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament, is "jovial, bushy haired". Levko Lukyanenko is by contrast "a gaunt man with a grey beard" — no, not a typical *Guardian* reader, but a political prisoner for 25 years. No wonder the poor man is "gaunt".

A shade austere, too, is perhaps Steele's refusal to satisfy our curiosity about the "Michael Dobbs" of the *Washington Post* who once accompanied him into the Kremlin. What — the Michael Dobbs? Was he perhaps seeking in the rubble of Gorbachev's fall for tips about how the great ones really do do each other down? Was he exploring the Kremlin House of Cards? Watching the snake-pit manoeuvres of Russians keen to play the King — or rather Tsar? Steele does not enlighten us. Is he perhaps blissfully ignorant of Dobbs's local notoriety here?

Steele's calm understatement does not always carry complete conviction. On October 2, 1993 a

**Colin Welch on the turmoil in Russia, whose recent past suggests to him that the will of the people may be to surrender that will**

ETERNAL RUSSIA

Yeltsin, Gorbachev and the Mirage of Democracy  
By Jonathan Steele  
Faber, £17.50

"poorly organised" mob assembled near the White House parliament, erecting barricades, letting down car tyres, lighting bonfires and preparing Molotov cocktails. Included in this mob of about 1,000 were, according to Steele, "several drunks". Several drunks? "Several" rather implies about three or four. It would be a strange Russian mob which did not include or even consist of many drunks.

Those who in 1917 stormed the Winter Palace were, according to their luckless leader Antonov Ovsenko, all or mostly drunk. Their difficulties in effecting an entrance arose not from any resistance but from their own condition, a fact tactfully sup-



"Young Yeltsin supporter, Manzh Square" from *Notes from Moscow* by Donovan Wylie (Picador, £12.99 pbk original); a collection of photographs taken November 1992-February 1993

pressed by Eisenstein in his inspiring film.

Steele denigrates a recent Russian film, a stupendous success, called *The Russia We Lost*, as "self-deception": a "new distortion" of a "love affair" with the Tsarist era. This era is portrayed in the film as "a peaceful idyll", destroyed by Bolshevik "foreign invaders". I have not seen the film, but it sounds marvellous. I doubt if it is more misleading than Eisenstein's mendacious masterpieces.

Russian history, pre-Soviet, Soviet and post-Soviet, is of course absolutely crawling and writhing with complex conspiracies and coups, some allegedly initiated for their own benefit by those against

whom they were ostensibly directed. The 1905 rising, for instance, and the assassination of Stolypin could well have been organised by occult secret agents of the Tsar. In our own day, did Gorbachev and Yeltsin in reality smile on apparently hostile disorders which they hoped to turn to advantage?

To be over-ready to believe in conspiracy theories is a mark elsewhere of naivety. In Russia it may be naive not to believe in them, naive to take everything at face value. Steele is admirably shrewd, cautious and not over-sceptical. As Coleridge put it, habitual incredulity is only credulity in reverse.

In October last year, did Yeltsin

acquiesce in or actually foment the mounting disorders which culminated in the storming of parliament? Was that storming in reality his objective throughout? Did he organise, "poorly" or not, that mob, those drunks? Did he in fact approve of the supine police who at first "stood by and watched", and later fled? Steele does not say, but he notes and supplies "strong circumstantial evidence".

The recent meteoric rise of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy came as a great and unwelcome surprise to most of us — not excluding, I fancy, Steele. He takes it aboard briefly at the end of his book, as one might, with a resigned but apprehensive shrug, make room for an enormous gorilla on an already crowded bus. Did not Zhirinovskiy's triumph offer an inconvenient reminder that democratic processes, so dear to Steele, can favour monsters neither he nor I would like, as once they favoured Hitler? They can engineer their own destruction. The people's will may be to surrender that will.

And did not Zhirinovskiy's success also torpedo one of Steele's main and most reassuring theses? This is roughly that Russia has in fact a very weak sense of nationality and is thus relatively immune from the madder and more menacing forms of aggressive nationalism. For this immunity he finds many more or less convincing causes. He charges the Tsars (the Bolsheviks too, for different reasons) with building not a nation, but a state. He cites mass deser-

tions in the First World War as evidence for this (mass desertions in the Second War he ignores, I think). He notes with satisfaction the unpopularity in Russia of the war in Afghanistan. He repeatedly emphasises the philosophic calm with which Russians have received the disintegration and loss of their empire. Where resident in parts of it, they often support independence movements which cannot be to their own sectional advantage. Many apparently prefer to be second-class citizens of, say, a Baltic state to being first-class citizens of what oppressed it. And so on: all very reassuring.

Reassuring too is Steele's contention that "to call Zhirinovskiy a fascist made little sense": "Russia has no history of fascism". This last statement is not, without qualification, unarguably true. Even if it were, one could still say that pre-Mussolini Italy and pre-Hitler Germany had no history of fascism. Some have even held, without being ridiculed, that pre-Hitler Germany's sense of nationality was weak, imperfect and insecure, and that Nazism was designed by devils to correct that. People find Zhirinovskiy funny. Steele himself smiles, if nervously. Well, sophisticated Germans and others thought Hitler in his day a scream. Russia's terrified neighbours may be forgiven for not seeing the joke.

Colin Welch was deputy editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, 1964-80, and parliamentary sketch-writer for *The Daily Mail*, 1984-92.

## In the beginning

Brian Alderson finds new attempts to rewrite the Bible for the very young either too didactic, or crass, or both

In 1660, in one of the first children's books ever published in England, Thomas White wrote: "When thou canst read, read no Ballads and foolish Books, but the Bible." And by the Bible he meant the whole thing, from Genesis to Revelation, in the text laid down for us by William Tyndale.

Vain hope. Even before the Enlightenment, authors were busy abridging and versifying the English Bible so that it was less formidable. As Martin Waddell puts it now: "I write for children, not theologians, and my aim in selecting and freely adapting these stories has been to make them more accessible to children." His *Stories from the Bible* and the other two books reviewed here are just the latest additions to a giant Tower of Babel, obscuring, in everyone's best interests, the Word.

Selina Hastings's building-block is the most substantial — almost as weighty as a Victorian family Bible, but replacing its 16-point typography and gaudy lithographs with the smoothly-machined page-lay-outs of the Dorling Kindersley production unit. (Ten editorial

names are acknowledged, to say nothing of seven textual consultants.)

Unlike Waddell, Hastings gives no rationale for the retelling by herself and her team, but the result thumps down somewhere between audiences in time-tabled RE classes and Free Church Sunday schools. Persistent efforts are made to explain what is going on.

The two Testaments are divided up into sections, each with an introduction outlining the historical or political background to the stories that follow, and the stories, or incidents themselves — mostly printed on separate page-openings — are begirt with maps, factual notes, colour-drawings and photographs.

King Solomon's Temple? There's a cut-through architectural drawing and a big picture of stonemasons at work. Thirty pieces of silver? There's a photograph of "a bronze coin box with Tyrian and Jewish silver shekels".

Much of this is very instructive, especially the near-impossible job of dealing with all those Old Testament prophets and mighty men of valour. But

no amount of planning and design can help with what Thomas White would have called "the Word of God". Here Hastings fails us lamentably. She has of course many New English Good News precedents; but, as a writer skilled in traditional storytelling, she inexplicably fails here to find a consistent or persuasive voice for her narrative.

Perhaps she is hampered by having to look over the shoulders of her seven consultants, as well as her own. Perhaps, like so many modern adapters, she is overwhelmed by the task of rephrasing perfection: "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Nothing can be done about that majestic simplicity; certainly not "I am obedient to God's will, and shall be prepared for whatever you wish me to do."

The same sort of inhibitions afflict Ann Pilling (who only has eight editors and advisors). The great jumble of events from Eden to Revelation just cannot be comprehended in 156 heavily

THE CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Retold by Selina Hastings  
Illustrations by Eric Thomas and Amy Burch  
Dorling Kindersley, £14.99

THE KINGFISHER CHILDREN'S BIBLE

Retold by Ann Pilling  
Illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton  
Kingfisher, £12.99

STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

Retold by Martin Waddell  
Illustrated by Geoffrey Patterson  
Frances Lincoln, £9.99

illustrated pages without far too much banality. But Pilling is at least not saddled with educational intrusions and is able to give more fluency to her stories. She also neatly integrates direct quotation from the Bible (from various translations) so that the reader senses the larger rhythms beyond the prose ones.

Such strategies are lost though on Martin Waddell, whose bold demonic may well affront the squeamish. Sensibly confining himself to 17 bits from the Old Testament, he retells them without troubling about Tyndale or anyone else. His concatenation of "Yah, boos", "Whooshes" and colloquial phrasing — "Come on Noah! We're fed up! We want off this old boat. You'll just have to wait!" Noah said. — can't help sliding into dreadful crassness at times, but its directness does carry a sincerity that more circumspect efforts lack.

Nice chunky paintings by Geoffrey Patterson too.



"SNAP! GURGLE! He was swallowed by a big fish." Geoffrey Patterson's vision of Jonah

LIGHT FICTION

NO MATTER what new excess her husband Rigby insults her with, Alison always finds an excuse for him. The only real surprise in Maggie's *Boy* by Beverly Kingston, (Century, £14.99) is that Alison is so astonishingly naive. It is obvious that Rigby is a snake because he smooths around in pastel Armani suits while his two small children wear cast-offs. Morgan on the other hand is a goodie because he wears a trusty old tweed jacket. Alison's problem is not the behavior of her reptilian husband but her own fatal passivity. She does finally lose her innocence to gain self-respect, but not before time.

Olivia's problems, in Daddy's Girl by Janet Inglis (Constable, £12.99), are not of her own making. Aged 14, rejected by her father, seduced by her mother's lover, she could be forgiven for admitting herself to the funny farm. Sexy, yobbish Nick replaces her father in Olivia's desperate search for affection after her parents' separation. He is, in every way, quite the wrong person to guide her through the adolescent rites of passage, not least because he makes her pregnant twice. But Olivia takes what she can from her shattered life and, although her attempt to take control of her destiny is unorthodox, one wishes her well.

Tari Jones in *All for Love* by Paul Booth (Century, £14.99) believes she is the daughter of God. Opinion is divided between whether she is a saint or a schizophrenic. As if this were not enough to complicate her life, she is simultaneously in love with a rock star and a celibate priest. The sex is earthmoving, the girls stunning, the men, including the priest, virile. In spite of the theme of religious mysticism, this is Booth in her usual bonkbuster mode.

KATHERINE BERGEN

## "What does sex have to do with teachers?"

And why was Shere Hite so keen to be interviewed by *The Times* Educational Supplement about her Report on the Family?



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### How to become a Proofreader

My name is Marian Thornley. I have been a freelance proofreader and copy-editor for 12 years, working for a number of major publishing houses. Two of my clients recently told me of the difficulty they experience in finding proofreaders. From my own experience and that of others in the business, I know that one of the reasons is that it is increasing as publishers realise that for them this is cost-effective and efficient. As a result of that conversation, I decided to draw on my experience to produce a guide for people interested in this line of work. The benefits of freelancing include being able to work from home with few overheads, earning between £12 and £20 per hour. This guide includes the following:

- Preparation of manuscripts
- What is expected of the proofreader
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- Accounting and administration of your business
- Lists of books, societies and publishers
- How to obtain work
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The price of the guide is £15, including postage and packing. To order your copy, please write to my publishers, Carnell Ltd, Dept PWS, Alresford, Essex CO7 8AP, with your name, address and payment (cheque or Visa Access) asking them to send you a copy of *Proofreading: A Comprehensive Guide*. You can return your copy at any time for a full refund if not satisfied.

## Eccentric voyage

Tibor Fischer

THE GLANCE OF COUNTESS HAHN-HAHN

By Peter Esterházy  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.99

It's always very hard to describe Peter Esterházy's books. The most straightforward thing that can be said about *The Glance of Countess Hahn-Hahn* is that it follows the course of the Danube, from its source in the Black Forest to its terminus in the Black Sea, giving, appropriately enough, a rather black picture of that chunk of Europe.

A sort of rag-and-bone man of letters, Esterházy is as eclectic as usual. In *Countess Hahn-Hahn*, you get travel writing, reflections on travel writing, an essay on central Europe (old and new), a memoir of the Esterházy family, some bizarre dialogues (a rather one-sided conversation between Christ and Heidegger for example) and even a little fiction. The spirit of the book is neatly summed up by the lengthy bibliography at the end of "specialist literature (not consulted)".

The reader will never find Esterházy dull or predictable. He juggles genres, switches characters, samples other writers. He seems to use every weapon in the literary arsenal. The difficulty with *Countess Hahn-Hahn* is that although it covers a lot of ground physically and metaphysically, it doesn't have the guide-book faculty that a lot of travel

writing offers. A phrase such as "Hristo Botev is the Bulgarian Petofi" isn't going to mean much, even to hardened literati.

If a certain familiarity with the region is a help, nevertheless much of Esterházy's musings are sharp and informative. While on the one hand sceptical of the game of pooling the countries of the region together — "to me Central Europe is nothing but a beautiful crystal ball that Kundera invented for himself in his sorry Parisian solitude" — he is willing to have a go himself, pointing out the enormous significance a packet of Kent cigarettes can assume. Of this is the magic and menace of Central Europe.

The strength of the book is that Esterházy, as a Danubian dweller himself, invests the journey with more emotional weight than an outsider could bring; in a way the most remarkable section of the book is where he deals with his home town, Budapest.

## THE TIMES OWN YOUR OWN



SALVADOR DALI, perhaps the most flamboyant artist of the century, will be celebrated at the Hayward Gallery in "Salvador Dali: The Early Years", from March 3 to May 29, 1994, sponsored by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya as part of the Spanish Festival in London. The exhibition follows Dali's career from his teens in Catalonia, through his years in Madrid, to the first exhibition of the Surrealist in Paris.

To mark the exhibition, *The Times* is offering readers a free reproduction print of Dali's 1930 painting *The Port* owned by Dali Museum in St Petersburg, Florida which is lending its works for the first time. The print measures 750mm by 492mm and is printed on heavyweight paper.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE PRINT: Collect six tokens from *The Times* (the first was printed in the *Times Magazine* last Saturday, February 26, and one will be printed every day this week). When you have collected six tokens, attach them to the coupon which appeared in *The Times Magazine* on Saturday, February 26. Full details of where to send your application and how to get your free print framed will also appear in the *Weekend Times* on Saturday, March 5.



TOKEN 2











# Dinosaur of the retailing age stages a comeback

The department store is a leaner and fitter operation, well placed for revival, writes Susan Gilchrist

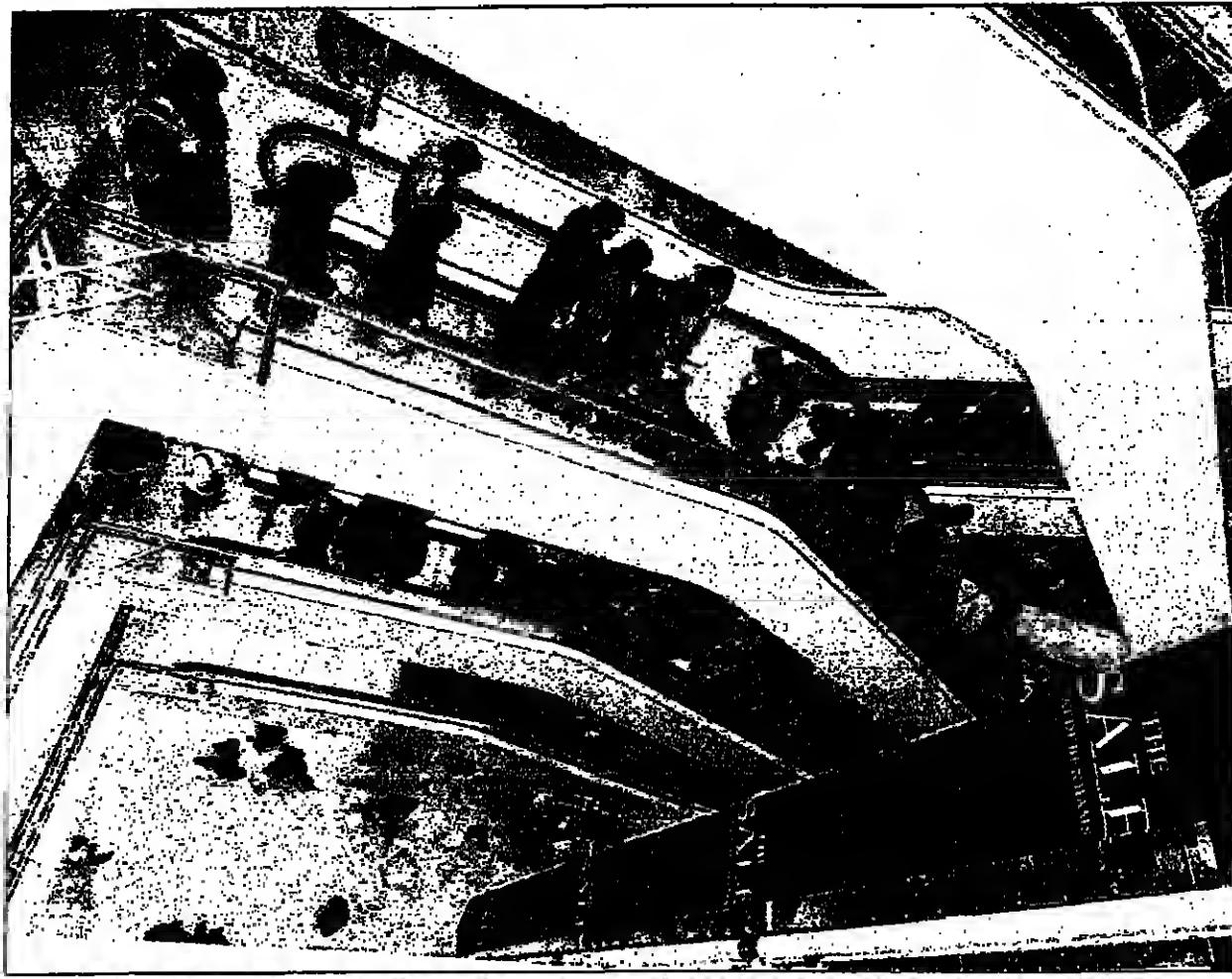
Department stores have often been viewed as the dinosaurs of the high street. While other retailers have moved with the times, creating ever more exciting and outlandish retail formats, the British department store seems to be stuck in a bygone era, having missed the retailing revolution. Many consumers believe it has more in common with Grace Brothers in the 1970s television series *Are You Being Served?* than the high street of the 1990s.

The statistics appear to bear this out. Department stores' share of total retail sales has fallen from 4.5 to just over 4 per cent since 1985, according to Verdict, the retail consultant. Store numbers have been in decline as operators have been forced to close down older and unprofitable outlets. Companies such as House of Fraser, which publishes its pathfinder prospectus today before April's flotation, have been particularly aggressive in this area. Verdict estimates total department-store sales total at just under £6 billion via 525 outlets.

In the past two years, however, the tide has begun to turn. In 1992, Verdict estimates department store sales rose by about 0.5 per cent in real terms, the first positive growth since the late 1980s. While store closures continue there has also been a pick-up in the number of new openings, especially in shopping malls, as department-store operators rush in to capitalise on the success of out-of-town retail developments.

This change of fortune, albeit modest, can partly be explained by department stores' traditional customer base. Their shoppers tend to include a high proportion of older and more affluent consumers, who have been less affected by recession than their younger counterparts. The core customer is usually female, aged 35-55. This demographic bias has not only protected department stores in recession but offers a significant opportunity: the 35-59 age group is forecast to grow by almost 15 per cent in the next decade, adding another 2.6 million potential department store customers.

Richard Hyman of Verdict is "more bullish" about the prospects for department stores than in years. "The market is moving towards



Debenhams' pricing strategy, with special promotions replacing deep discounting, is popular with shoppers

them rather than away from them. All the trends are in their favour," he believes. Department store groups also have an opportunity to be important beneficiaries of the growing polarisation in retailing between discounters on the one hand and more upmarket, aspirational retail formats on the other. "Department stores are in a position to offer added-value and higher service. It is the retailers in the middle, who are neither fish nor fowl, that will find the going much tougher," he says.

Department stores have always tried to offer a better level of service than multiples by employing more staff of a higher calibre. If properly managed, this works well, but it can put severe pressure on profit margins. Labour costs as a proportion of sales are almost 20 per cent — significantly higher than other types of retailers. Department stores are also highly capital intensive, with substantial sums of money tied up in the wide ranges of stock they carry.

Some of this margin pressure has been offset because department stores have been able to sustain their price premium and have successfully avoided much of the damaging discounting activity that has hit profits of the specialist chains in recent years. That said, Debenhams' pricing strategy has been extremely successful, using special pro-

motions, such as "Blue Cross" days and "12-hour spectaculars," rather than just continual deep discounting.

The department-store operators have also judged the property market right, even if this was mostly fortuitous. They did not participate in the "race for space" in the consumer boom of the 1980s and as a result have not been left with the burden of exorbitant rent bills afflicting many high street retailers. Indeed, many department store groups have acquired sites on very favourable terms.

Rent bills are further reduced by the fact that most department store groups, including John Lewis and House of Fraser, have freehold or long leasehold buildings. Some, such as Debenhams, are primarily leasehold; at the other end of the spectrum, Owen and Owen has completed a sale and leaseback arrangement on all its stores.

Proof that the department store genre has an important place in modern retailing is clear from the revival of Debenhams' fortunes since the late 1980s. The chain was suffering from a lack of strategic focus until John Hoerner, now chief executive of the Burton group, which owns Debenhams, was brought in to turn it round in 1987. Demonstrating consider-

able vision, he moved Debenhams away from the traditional department store format, which tried to offer an exhaustive product range, and focused instead on a narrower range of faster-turning merchandise such as fashion, accessories and cosmetics. He rejected the idea of trying to be "all things to all men" and dispensed with many of the electrical, household goods and furniture departments, which were slow-moving and subject to intense competition from out-of-town specialists.

He also revamped the clothing ranges. The emphasis on middle-market brands such as Alexon, Planet and Eastex, the traditional mainstay of a department store's clothing offer, was reduced and more fashionable and contemporary own-label ranges introduced. This structure enabled Debenhams to provide increased fashion content and keener prices. It also differentiated the stores from their competitors.

Significantly, House of Fraser has begun to move in a similar direction, giving additional floor space to fashion and limiting the number of product categories in its smaller stores. Andrew Jennings, House of Fraser's managing director, says: "Department stores must be authoritative. The multiples take the market apart in the 1970s and 1980s because department stores

failed in this. We must be more authoritative in the sectors in which we choose to compete." He also plans to double the own-label content of the chain from 5 to 10 per cent of sales.

Mr Hyman believes other chains will be forced to follow suit and rationalise product ranges. He predicts large-ticket household durables, furnishings and fabrics will be increasingly scaled back to provide greater space to clothing, fashion accessories, perfumes and cosmetics. This should enhance performance given the higher sales/sq ft of these categories. It will also provide an opportunity to improve buying and stock control.

Companies such as Alders have chosen to provide a more focused product offer by opening new, smaller stores that concentrate on a single category. Its "at Home with Alders" out-of-town format, which exclusively sells furniture and furnishings, has the additional benefit of enabling the company to expand without incurring the high level of capital expenditure required to open a full-sized store.

The popular perception that department stores are a tired, old format with a high cost base may be becoming outdated. There is an opportunity to turn that belief on its head for those department stores commercially sharp enough to grasp it.

# Inflation worries not crucial while scope remains to cut rates

On Friday, the Bank of England stepped in to support the bond market by offering to buy up to £50 million of gilts from a number of dealers. The move came after the long gilt future had lost five points in a month. In recent history, the Bank of England is known to have intervened only when the Falklands War was announced and on Black Wednesday. The long gilt future ended up a point on Friday after the intervention.

This meant that over the past month yields on long-dated conventional stocks have risen by 80 basis points, substantially more than in any other major bond market. This was an overreaction, to the relative decline in manufacturing's share. As a result, the propensity to import is tending to climb independently of any income effects while that for exports tends to decline.

What this suggests is that even with modest growth expectations for the UK in 1994, the momentum underlying last year's deterioration in the trade balance will accelerate. In this sense, there is every reason to believe that as the recovery matures, sterling will become vulnerable to adverse sentiment.

However, there has also been an extensive depreciation in the real exchange rate and although we have found that the influence of price effects on the trade balance is weak in comparison to income effects — but not negligible — the more favourable competitive position could make all the difference between a current-account deficit which spells disaster for sterling and one for which the consequences are relatively trivial. We expect the current-account deficit as a proportion of GDP to lie somewhere between 2.5 and 3 per cent both this year and next, a

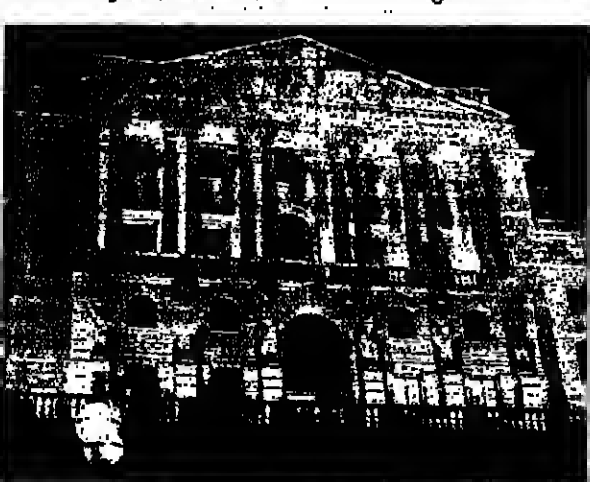
range which historically has not placed sterling under much duress. For this to be the case, the current account would have to deteriorate in the 4 to 4.5 per cent range and for this to occur, the domestic economy would have to accelerate from an expected growth rate of 2.5 per cent this year and next to approaching 4 per cent.

Our conclusion therefore is that adverse sentiment is unlikely to be aroused by the trade position, that sterling should remain broadly stable and that inflation expectations will be conditioned primarily by a background of moderate pay increases which will be partially offset by modest productivity gains.

So where does this leave the gilt market? And how should investors position themselves? With an expected 3 per cent inflation rate for 1994, the authorities are running out of scope to lower base rates.

We still expect base rates to fall to a low of 4.5 per cent but this is small beer in relation to their recent trend. So on a strategic view, the prospect for further capital gains in the gilt market is limited. However, the market is currently in an extended overvalued position and thus, on a tactical view, should rally shortly. Investors should take advantage of this rally by switching out of long-dated conventional stocks into the more defensive five-year area. Medium-dated index-linked gilts should be retained as they remain cheap to the rest of the sector and offer the prospect of outperformance over conventional.

**MICHAEL LENHOFF**  
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## Baroness beats breakfast blues

A RARE insight into the life of Baroness O'Cathain, managing director of the Barbican Centre in the City, has surfaced in the least likely place. Lady O'Cathain, whose efforts to brighten the Barbican's concrete gloom are well documented, pops up in the new edition of *Good Housekeeping* of all things, in a feature about what women pack into their day bag. At 5.30am, we learn, the baroness rises and dons swimming costume and track suit. She studies the Bible for half an hour, before proceeding to Holmes Place, a health club in Aldwych, to swim her lengths. The itinerary proceeds: "7.00. Back home. Wash hair, shower and dress. Sit down with my cup of tea and write yesterday's diary entry. Then I start to plan the day. I make lots of lists." At 8am, she is off to St Paul's for Communion Service, and then heads for work, with a quick detour via Marks and Spencer. All this should go down well in the boardroom of British Airways, where Lady O'Cathain, is a non-executive director.

## Not today, thanks

PROBABLY the first person to be aware of the sudden freeze in relations between Britain and Malaysia was Michael Hoffman, deputy chairman and chief executive of Thames Water, who was asked to leave the waiting room of Malaysia's prime minister, Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamed, last Thursday, shortly before he was due to pitch for a major water contract. "We were in the ante-room after being granted a half-hour slot with the prime minister," says Hoffman, now back in London. "Officials told us very courteously that we could not

see him. They made it very clear they take the view 'We don't have to buy from Britain'." Hoffman, who immediately wrote to John Major, fears that French competitors will seize the chance to cash in.

## Just the job

MUSCLE-FLEXING by Maizels, Westenberg, the Swedish investment bank founded as a breakaway from Enskilda Securities, which has signed two recruits to its London team. Nicholas Akins, 32, joins from 3i, and Eric Fern, 28, arrives

from Coopers & Lybrand in Zurich. In other moves, Chris Carter joins UBS from Ciba International Investment Advisors as head of global equity strategy. David Jessop, a senior money-man at Midland Bank, is joining The Royal Bank of Scotland as director, payment services, succeeding Jim Rafferty, who is retiring.

## Kick-start capitalist

FROM wheels to deals... Robert Cave, the former SG Warburg broker who set up Taxi-Bike — a service that uses

motorcycles to whisk Londoners from place to place — has embarked on a new venture. Cave, 29, has teamed up with John Huster, former head of KPMG Venture Capital and founder of Hustler Venture Partners, an up-and-coming venture capital consultancy which. "We aim to act as a marriage agency between people we know in the venture capital world," says Cave, who spent three years covering UK equities at Warburg before setting up Taxi-Bike in 1991. Taxi-Bike clients have includ-

ed Paula Yates, who used the service to get to the *Big Breakfast* studio on time.

## Sale ahoy?

Sir Philip Beck, who steps down as chairman of John Mowlem, the builder, in August on the occasion of his 60th birthday, appears to be planning for his change of pace well in advance. I hear that he has discreetly put his luxurious four-bedroom home in London's Little Venice up for sale through Knight Frank & Rutley with a price tag of

£695,000. The stucco-fronted period terrace house, in Blomfield Road, overlooking Paddington Basin on the Grand Union Canal, has had Lady Diana Cooper and Lord Padumbo among its neighbours over the years. "I no longer need the space," says Sir Philip, who intends to buy a flat in the area. The house was refurbished about four years ago by Leslie Burton, former chairman of the David Hicks design group, and the result is intriguing. "The interior was done up by Vosper shipyard to look like a ship," says Sir Philip. "It's very unusual."

## Westland warrior

AS GKN's bid for Westland ploughs on, the Yeovil-based helicopter group has found a staunch ally in Paddy Ashdown, the local MP, who has been firing off broadsides from his Yeovil headquarters. "Westland has been one of the most notable success stories of the past four to five years," he tells me, "and its biggest success has been its independence." Sir David Lees, chairman of GKN, has told the MP that there are no plans to change Westland if the bid succeeds, but healthy scepticism seems to be the order of the day. Letters to Ashdown's office suggest that Westland employees want things left the way they are.

## Back to basics

MANY gifts have landed on desks in this newsroom — champagne, chocolates, flowers. So what does Walnhome, a private sector housebuilder, send to alert us to its imminent stock market flotation? A brick. The specimen, mounted on a wooden pedestal, was addressed to our City news editor, the appropriately sur-named Martin Barrow.

JON ASHWORTH

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY



## Cooks' tour is a busman's holiday

Out of the kitchen: Some of Europe's top chefs take in the delights of the Taj Mahal during a whistle-stop trip to India, Hong Kong and Thailand arranged by Grand Marnier, the family-run French liqueur house. Members of The Young Chefs of Europe, a group sponsored by Seagram, American Express and others, were keen to pick up a few tips about Eastern cuisine, visiting Bangkok's Oriental hotel and other exclusive venues en route. A highlight was a 20-course banquet at The Mandarin Hotel in Hong Kong, an imperial-style feast of the sort that used to last three days. Even chefs, are not immune to the curses of modern travel. In India, several went down with Delhi Belly.



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## Central bankers act to curb speculators

By JON ASHWORTH  
AND PHILIP ROBINSON

EUROPEAN central bankers are to discuss volatility in world bond markets as a matter of priority, amid signs that the Bank of England is cautioning UK banks to limit their exposure to individual high-risk players such as George Soros.

Turbulence in the bond markets will be top of the agenda when central bankers meet in Basel in seven days. Particular concern is expected to be voiced by the Bundesbank, traditionally the most cautious of the European central banks.

The move follows reports of substantial losses by some of the large American hedge funds, including Mr Soros's Quantum Fund. Concern in the markets is believed to have prompted the Bank of England to remind UK banks and institutions of the dangers of over-exposing themselves to any single source. Hedge funds, officials point out, tend to be unsupervised, operating out of the Caribbean and other offshore centres, and taking vast positions in the markets.

Bank of England officials

**Hedge funds have become large international gambling vehicles that can bet billions of dollars at a time. The returns can be up to 100 per cent a year**

are playing down the significance of the move, describing it as a reminder of best practice, rather than a clamping down. However, events in the markets have almost certainly acted as a catalyst. Serious concerns about the destabilising influence of hedge funds were raised in a speech by Bill Allen, head of the Bank's foreign exchange division. Mr Allen, speaking at a conference on financial markets on Friday, said anxieties are rooted in what could be described as "destabilising transactions" — those which buy or sell a currency on the short-term prospects for its price, irrespective of the economic fundamentals of its country.

He said wild swings in the foreign exchange markets are accentuated by these deals, which include the stop-loss order — which triggers automatic selling or buying when a currency hits a certain level

— and chart-based trading, which can spark selling or buying whatever the economic fundamentals of a country.

Members of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations voiced their concern while meeting in Germany over the weekend. Speculative and excessive fluctuations in the foreign exchange market were undesirable, they said. UK gilts and other world bond markets have been hit hard as a result of massive selling by highly leveraged hedge funds, coupled with fears that UK interest rates may have to rise. The long gilt future lost 24 points on Thursday, the largest single-day loss in more than seven years, and the Bank was compelled to step in due to fears of fundamental liquidity problems.

The Bank offered to buy up to £50 million of gilts from 20 primary dealers in an almost unprecedented attempt to shore up a falling market.

Dealers could remember only two other occasions when the Bank launched such an operation — on Black Wednesday and when the Falklands war was announced.

Market sources say that while hedge and futures funds may have started out to provide a useful insurance policy to international investors, they have now become large international gambling vehicles whose returns have hit between 70 and 100 per cent.

The funds are able to borrow billions of dollars to make unprecedented bets on currency movements which no single or even internationally coordinated — central banker could match.

Instability in world markets accompanied reports that Mr Soros lost \$600 million because his \$12 billion Quantum Fund bet the wrong way on the movement of the dollar against the yen. The fund bet \$8 billion that the yen would fall against the dollar, but the threat of a American-Japanese trade war sent the dollar crashing sharply in spite of positive economic fundamentals for the currency.

Gilt-edged, page 38



Marisha Romer, whose foundation will offer a helping hand to small businesses

## Pattern for entrepreneurs

By JON ASHWORTH

FROM knitwear to high finance... Marisha Romer, an American-born management consultant, is launching a foundation to provide a helping hand for budding British entrepreneurs.

The Romer Foundation, fashioned along similar lines to The Prince's Youth Business Trust, will provide bursary awards, low interest loans and professional advice. The idea is to help anyone aged 23 or more to develop the potential of their ideas.

"There's a huge gamut of people out there who could

benefit," said Miss Romer, 29. She made a fortune by the time she was 26 from developing her own corporate idea, and wants to pass some of it on for the benefit of small businesses.

Schooled in Britain, she had her first taste of business while studying at the University of East Anglia. "To earn more money, I hired a bunch of knitters," she said. "Hand-knitted sweaters were selling for a fortune in the US, and I sold them during the holidays."

She developed the idea into a highly profitable company,

which was later sold, and has since been acting as a management consultant from offices in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

The foundation, to be launched in May, will, in time, provide up to £100,000 annually for the benefit of a range of entrepreneurs.

"I want to start off in a small way, granting three to four bursaries a year of, say, £5,000 each," Miss Romer said. "Beneficiaries will be expected to put a percentage of their profits back into the foundation when they succeed."

## Gloves off in battle to replace Topic

By JON ASHWORTH

COMPETITION to replace the London Stock Exchange's Topic share information service has descended into an aggressive clash, with rivals undercutting prices by up to 30 per cent in an effort to win market share.

The market is worth up to £50 million a year. Chief among the aggressors is Reuters, which is using its name and muscle to push its UK Equity Focus product, and Automatic Data Processing (ADP), an American company anxious to win a European foothold. Fitted against them are Telekurs and ICV, the two companies selected by the Stock Exchange as the preferred choice to take the system forward.

Topic will be switched off at the end of the year, leaving the Stock Exchange to concentrate on a regulatory role. It will continue to provide share price and company data in return for a screen-based fee.

About 10,000 Topic terminals need to be replaced. The Stock Exchange's decision to back Telekurs, owned by a consortium of Swiss banks, and ICV, a private company in which Christopher Sharples, chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority, is a main shareholder, has angered the two larger players. They question why the Stock Exchange did not put the Topic contract out to tender.

A Stock Exchange spokesman said: "It was not a formal tender, but we did compare a number of providers." Income from information services, including Topic, amounted to £45 million last year.

Tudor Morgan, managing director of Telekurs (UK), said there have been signs of aggressive discounting. "It's a very busy time for us. People are now realising Topic won't be available at the end of the year." ICV is pitching for contracts on a situation by situation basis. ICV said: "We're all competing aggressively."

ICV has a base of about 3,800 users through its Market-Eye and Topic 3 services. Topic 3 prices start from £2,600 per terminal per annum. Telekurs has contracts for about 700 Topic Plus terminals on 46 sites. The average cost per terminal is £2,800. ADP, with a product called QST, has spent between £3 million and £4 million in the past three years, in the hope of becoming a "significant" UK player.

## Leeds still has room at the top

By LINDSAY COOK  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society celebrates a dubious anniversary today — a year without a chief executive.

The society appears to be no nearer making an appointment in spite of changing the firm of headhunters it is using.

Roger Boyes, finance director, has been acting chief executive since Mike Blackburn moved to the number one position at the Halifax Building Society.

The Leeds had planned to merge with the National & Provincial Building Society, but that was called off in October. If it had gone ahead, David O'Brien, the N&P chief executive, would have led the combined society.

John Wrigglesworth, building society analyst at UBS, said: "It is now thought it will not be a building society person. They are looking elsewhere, all over the world."

## Virgin Retail to merge with Our Price chain

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

WH Smith is set to merge its Our Price record chain with Virgin Retail, part of Richard Branson's empire, in a move that will create Britain's biggest music retailing business with about 30 per cent of the market.

The deal, which is expected to be announced this week, will bring Our Price's 305 stores and Virgin Retail's 24 outlets, currently 50 per cent owned by WH Smith, under a single integrated management. WH Smith's share of the venture will increase to 75 per cent.

The enlarged operation will have sales of more than £350 million, making it substantially larger than Kingfisher's Woolworth's, the current market leader. Combined with music sales through WH Smith's own newsagents stores, the proposed deal will give the group almost a third

of the market and is therefore likely to be subject to clearance by the Office of Fair Trading.

If the merger goes ahead, it is expected that the two brands will continue to have separate identities on the high street. The Virgin Megastores compete with the HMV chain for younger record buyers in large catchment areas, while Our Price has a slightly older customer profile in small- and medium-sized catchment areas and is pitched against Woolworth's and independent retailers.

Although Our Price has been losing money, repositioning of the chain towards older music buyers in the past two years and a recovery in the music market has seen the chain moving back into the black in the current year. Profits at Virgin Retail are expected to exceed £4 million this year. The deal

may also see an expansion of the product range within Our Price's stores to include more videos and computer games. Music currently accounts for 80 per cent of its sales, compared with about 50 per cent for Virgin, which provides a very strong home entertainment offer.

The two sides originally forged the partnership in September 1991, when Mr Branson's burgeoning airline business had left his retailing operations short of the cash needed to expand. However, trading links between the two date back to 1986, when WH Smith bought about 70 smaller record stores from Virgin, so that the latter could concentrate on developing its megastore format. WH Smith has been aggressively expanding Our Price since it bought the chain for £43 million in 1986.

## RHT on the right course in Epsom bid stakes

By NEIL BENNETT



David Hillyard, of RHT, the biggest racecourse operator

THE £30 million bidding war for Epsom racecourse, home of the Derby, comes to a climax today, the deadline for the short-listed bidders to hand in their final offers to Lazard's, the City merchant bank handling the sale.

Lazard's is expected to receive at least three offers for United Racecourses which owns Epsom, Kempton and Sandown racecourses. The three main bidders are Racecourse Holdings Trust, the largest racecourse operator in Britain owned by the Jockey Club; Sunset & Vine, the television production company; and a consortium led by Stan Clarke, head of St Modwen Properties and owner of Uttoxeter racecourse.

The fourth short-listed bidder is P&O.

but it is believed to have pulled out of the negotiations. Sunset & Vine has revealed ambitious plans for the three racecourses as part of its bid. These include a new glass stand for Kempton, which is badly in need of renovation.

Sunset & Vine has assembled a consortium of senior venture capital firms to back its bid. If it succeeds, it would buy United with a 51 per cent owned subsidiary and raise the rest of the capital from external investors. These include the family of David Thompson, founder of Hillsdown, who owns Windsor racecourse.

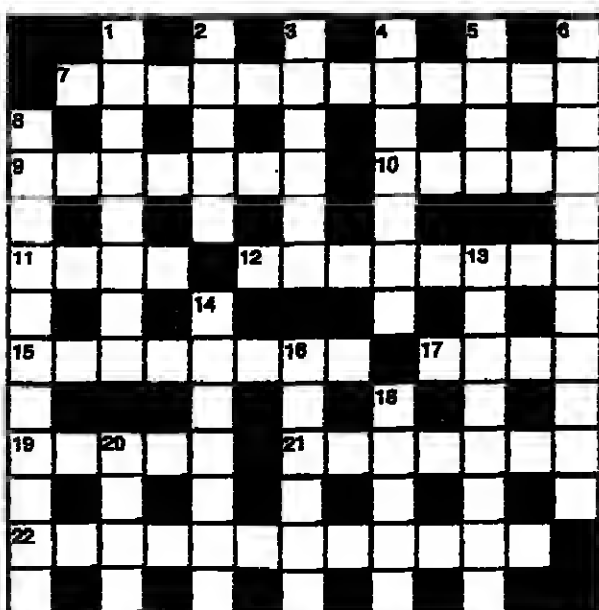
Colin Frewin, head of Sunset, believes the key to pulling United back into profit lies in sponsorship and marketing. He wants the Derby to become the centrepiece of a weekend racing festival

that would restore its reputation against other international races.

But in the closing stages of the bid, the favourite is still thought to be RHT, due to its long experience of racecourse management. RHT was founded in the 1950s to rescue Cheltenham racecourse and now owns Aintree and Haydock Park as well as regional courses.

David Hillyard, RHT's managing director, said: "This bid is vital if the long-term future of quality racing at these courses is to be safeguarded. In particular, the status of the Derby as a race of international standing is a significant issue."

The Levy Board, which is selling United, will decide on the winning bidder early next month, once Lazard's has assessed the three offers.



**CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS:** The Times Concise Crosswords — Books 1 & 2 (Special Edition 240 puzzles) £5.74 each, Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each, The Times Jumbo Crosswords — Book 1 £5.25, Book 2 £5.90, Concise Book 1 £5.99, The Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 13 £4.74 each, Books 14 to 16 £5.25 each, The Sunday Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each, Book 11 £4.25, Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices inc. p&hp (UK). Cheques to **Alkan Ltd**, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 3QW. Return delivery. Tel 081 462 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

Just released from Times Books, The Times Crosswords — Book 17, The Times Concise Crosswords — Book 5, The Sunday Times Crosswords — Book 12, £4.25 each (inc p&hp).

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 100

ACROSS

- 7 Glossy wood varnish (6/5)
- 9 Ancient division of county (7)
- 10 (Of motorcyclist) Capable of high speed (3-2)
- 11 Bouquet (4)
- 12 Regularly recurring (5)
- 15 Sly, unkind hint (8)
- 17 Shakespeare was its own (4)
- 19 Number of spatial dimensions (5)
- 21 Works out (7)
- 22 Bedtime attire (5-7)

DOWN

- 1 Male descendant (5)
- 2 Irrate (5)
- 3 Of poor quality; inferior cloth (6)
- 4 Antagonistic (7)
- 5 Bearing, appearance (4)
- 6 The condition of having a good figure (11)
- 8 Store theft (11)
- 13 Bedspread (5)
- 14 Under (7)
- 16 In a dexterous way (6)
- 18 Quartz gemstone; a marble (5)
- 20 Fury (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 99

ACROSS: 7 Jane 8 Specific 9 Jumper 10 Soaked 11 Cain 12 Nicholas 15 Leap year 17 Alps 18 Object 21 Sombre 22 Carefree 23 Duty

DOWN: 1 Tabulate 2 Weakness 3 Estrange 4 Less 5 Virago 6 Eire 13 Carressed 14 Asperity 16 Preset 17 Armada 19 Beak 20 Tyro

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

In honour of the category 18 Linares tournament, currently in progress in Spain, this week we are concentrating on positions from previous events at Linares. This position is a variation on the game Anand - Iliescu, Linares 1992. White can capture the black rook on b6, but there is a far stronger continuation. Can you see it?

Solution, page 37

## WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LIDE

- a. March
- b. Tree moss
- c. To trick or elude

MOSEITE

- a. Architectural ornament on a finial
- b. A short vestment
- c. A soft cheese

PREGNADA

- a. A lemon
- b. A courtyard arcade
- c. Born with teeth

ROOVE

- a. To put a roof on
- b. To river
- c. A corner gutter spout

Answers on page 37

## BEST TIME

...WHY... GREEN SHOOTS TAKE... RECOVERY UNDER WAY... TAKE BEST ADVANTAGE... NOW... MOVE... TO BEST ENVIRONMENT... FOR YOUR ENTERPRISE... GROW AND PROSPER... DEVELOPMENT AREA... BENEFITS... MODERN FACTORIES... GREENFIELD SITES... BAGER/ABLE WORKFORCE... WHERE?... WEST LANC... STOP

## BEST PLACE

...WHERE?... 13TH. MARKET TOWN... CROTH. NEW TOWN... LIVE/WORK IN HARMONY... 100 SQUARE MILES RICH FARMLAND... AGRICULTURE... ENGINEERING... ELECTRONICS... 70 MILE MAGIC COAST... PERKS MANCHESTER/LIVERPOOL... NEAR LAKES MOORS MOUNTAINS... WHERE?... WEST LANC... STOP

## WEST LANC

...WHAT?... READY-TO-WEAR FACTORIES... OR BUILD YOUR OWN... ALL SERVICES... GRANTS... PREMISES... SITES... MACHINERY... PLANT... EQUIPMENT... TRAINING... EC AID & SOFT LOANS... FINANCIAL/PROFESSIONAL ADVICE... WHERE?... WEST LANC... STOP

...WHERE?... SUPER COMMUNICATIONS... M62... NATIONAL MOTORWAYS... INTERCITY... AIRPORTS... COMMUTING A PLEASURE... WHERE?... WEST LANC... GO

**TELL ME WHY WEST LANCASHIRE IS BEST FOR BUSINESS**

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